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7 May 1984

NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA REPORT

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

GULF ATTITUDES TOWARD SOVIETS EXAMINED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 43, 4 Feb 84 p 25

[Text] Despite their seriousness, the Kuwait bombings did not dispel the "thinking out loud" that the Gulf states had begun to do in the aftermath of the serious development in U.S.-Israeli relations in the political and military fields.

The confusion currently experienced by the people of the Gulf is not attributable to the lack of concern about the Arab world shown by the Reagan administration as much as it is attributable to the search for a way--an "electric shock"--that would force Washington to take Arab interests into consideration from now on.

But how can this be done? What is the card held by the Gulf states that can be waved in the face of the United States? It is no secret that voices are beginning to be raised within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states calling for reliance on a policy balanced between the East and the West, a policy which would keep the region free of the dangers of the international conflict, which is becoming more acute with the intensification of the cold war between the two countries of detente. For this reason, some observers do not find it unlikely that the Soviet antennae are ready to pick up any signals from the region that would limit the monopoly of the United States in the Gulf and open the door of this sensitive region of the world to the Russian bear.

Historians say that the Arabs have been a loyal people since the pre-Islamic Jahiliyah [period of ignorance]. This is true if the issue is confined to the matter of loyalty. But in this case it goes much beyond that. Some say, "Let's start from a realistic political framework. Why this complex about the Soviet Union in the Gulf? What does it want from us and what do we want from it? How extensive is the fear that the Soviets will enter the Gulf? Is this fear well-founded or not?"

This comes from our side. However, in Moscow many questions are raised about the nature of Soviet-Arab relations, particularly Soviet-Gulf relations. The most important question is how long Soviet-Arab policy will continue to focus on delusions and hopes of improvement at some future time. For a quarter of a century the Soviet Union has been one of the best friends to many Arab states. In fact, a significant number of Soviet experts believed that the

role of the Soviet Union in the region was deep-rooted and permanent. However, this dream was shattered with the expulsion of Soviet experts from Egypt. Moscow was forced to reevaluate its expenditures of men, money, weapons, technology, and equipment during this long period. In this context one must ask, "Does Moscow have an Arab policy, and do the Arab states have a Soviet policy?"

In the view of the Soviets, the notion of equal influence in the region does not have practical views. The Soviet Union has resisted the inclination of any third power to balance the superpowers in the region. The Western military presence exists through weapons agreements with a number of states in the Gulf and, thus, military facilities are available to the West. Also, diplomatic relations between the region and the West are as friendly as possible, although the Soviet Union has embassies in Baghdad and Kuwait. Nonetheless, the Soviet Union has worked to weaken Western influence in the region. Therefore, the Russians have begun to change their view of the region.

In short, competition between the superpowers continues to be the basic premise of international politics. Although the military balance of power between the two blocks will not be the decisive factor in a given region of the world, it nonetheless conditions the relations between the superpowers and will affect the definition of "interests" of each of the two blocks. For example, in the Gulf the influence of the balance of power has led to important political results. The growth of Soviet military power on the strategic level and the increase of conventional weapons has placed the Soviet Union on a par with the United States in nuclear capabilities and strengthened the Soviet capability to move nearer to the region. This has ended Western intervention which had been conducted with impunity and has restricted the West's capability to react. The political results have been even more important. For the first time the Soviet Union has become a factor that has to be taken into consideration in any decisions made in the capitals of the Arabian Peninsula. The Soviet Union has become capable of a quick reaction in the north and has become a pillar along the borders and a naval presence in the South. All of this has made the Soviet Union an actor with a role to play in the affairs of the Gulf.

Kuwait is the only GCC country to have diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. However, Moscow is apparently trying to reach the Gulf without establishing direct relations with any of its states. It is now found in the area through its presence in South Yemen, Afghanistan, and Ethiopia.

Perhaps Sudan is most affected by this fact, and perhaps is the most concerned because of the sensitive situation on its borders. When we say Sudan, we mean Egypt first and foremost because it considers Sudan its first line of defense in the South.

Egypt fears Soviet encirclement, and it believes that the events in the Shaba region are the beginning of this. Therefore, Egypt was quick to send assistance to President Mobutu.

Some observers raise the following urgent questions: What is preventing the Gulf states from exploiting the tensions between Moscow and Washington and creating a new reality that places both capitals at the Gulf states' service?

In other words, why do the states in the region not resort to merely waving the Soviet card to frighten the West, if only once?

We leave the answer to this question to the former shah of Iran who, as no one doubted, despised communism and clung to his imperial traditions and monarchical regime.

The shah told diplomats from Islamic Asian countries who expressed their concerns over the increased relations between Tehran and Moscow, "For centuries the Russians have wanted to reach the warm waters of the Gulf. We provided them the wherewithal to achieve this dream when they stopped their destructive actions against us. We did this with roads, railroads, and oil pipelines, in other words, with joint efforts." Why would Iranian diplomacy during the era of the shah, who was the protege of the West, be more flexible and forthcoming than the diplomacy of the Arab Gulf?

We return to the question, why this complex about the Soviet Union in the Gulf?

Soviet activity in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf during the difficult first years of independence of the Gulf states led to the development of wariness about Soviet policy. This was compounded with the expulsion of Soviet experts from Egypt. Also, religion and convictions are two factors that prevent the spread of communism in the Gulf region. Nationalist movements in the region have not been affected by the communists as much as by the intelligentsia, who believe that the current situation is an anachronism. In the view of many observers, it is in the Arabs' interest to be neutral. It is more necessary today than ever before for the Arabs to review their position, taking into consideration their higher interests. In light of the role played by Israel, with America's blessings, in dictating Middle East affairs, and the political balance between the East and the West, it has become a strategic necessity. In the event that peace is achieved, it will be necessary to introduce the Soviet Union as a counterweight to the United States, which wants to return to the Middle East as a "peace broker."

The bitterness felt by Gulf Arabs toward the Soviet Union is only paralleled these days by their lack of confidence in the American umbrella. This is because the American umbrella, according to American officials themselves, is based solely on the Soviet threat, whereas the total threat is Israel, which every day swallows more land and threatens an entire nation with extinction.

Will the Gulf states resort to giving America a dose of its own medicine?
Will they frighten the United States by using the Soviet Union as the United States does?

This is something that cannot be answered except with extreme caution.

12608
CSO: 4404/379

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

IMPACT OF GULF WAR ON OIL MARKET DISCUSSED

Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 369, 17 Mar 84 pp 47-48

[Article: "Will Gulf War Rescue World Oil Production?"]

[Text] Despite the dangerous escalation in the Gulf war, the world appears unconcerned about oil supplies coming from the Gulf states, perhaps because American and British naval units are protecting the Strait of Hormuz and are on guard for any Iranian attempt to close the strait as a reaction to Iraq bombing Iranian oil facilities, particularly the main terminal at Khark Island.

This international calm, however, has other dimensions. Perhaps the foremost is that Iraq, for regional and international political reasons, has not attacked Khark Island, which is near its borders, and Iran, for the same reasons, has not closed the Strait of Hormuz so that it would not have to enter into a battle that would divert it from its primary battle. Another reason for the calm is that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has moved to put 45 million barrels of oil offshore in supertankers. This measure would provide 5 million barrels of oil per day for 9 days, enough to compensate for any cutoff of oil supplies caused by a closure of the Strait of Hormuz because the United States says that it is able to reopen the strait within hours or, at the most, within 3 days. Nonetheless, the exchange of threats has raised fears about an oil supply crisis, such as those in 1973 and 1979, among some of the smaller countries who were the main victims of those crises. These countries have intentionally stored oil, a step which led to only a marginal and short-lived increase in prices before the situation returned to normal, that is, low demand and a world-wide oil surplus which the OPEC countries do not know how to eliminate. Even the escalation of the Gulf war has not affected OPEC meetings. Rather, it has been noted that both Iran and Iraq insist on sticking to scheduled ministerial meeting times as though nothing will rock the boat in the future. In fact, they have cooperated in meetings to solve oil problems in accordance with directives of the secretary general of the organization.

Among the proposals raised by the ministerial subcommittee--which includes the oil ministers of Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela, and Indonesia--of the OPEC ministerial council is a proposal which calls for reducing production from 17.5 million barrels per day to 16.5 million, a reduction of 1 million barrels per day, due to fears that the price of oil will collapse in the next few weeks because supply exceeds demand by about 2 million

barrels per day. Although the proposal has its justifications, the OPEC member countries probably will not adopt it because reduced production would mean that they would have to stop financing development projects. During the past 3 years there has been a 43 percent reduction in demand for OPEC oil, and all but one or two OPEC countries have begun to borrow in the international market. In this regard, OPEC Secretary General al-Shalabi says that the OPEC countries must follow a policy based on four principles:

1. Production must not be raised to the point that results in stagnation in world-wide demand for oil.
2. Inflation must not be allowed to destroy and erode prices.
3. OPEC must maintain its share of the world market as the primary oil producer.
4. Oil prices must be based on a formula so that they are not too high or too low. They should not force consuming countries to conserve oil, nor should they lead to a dramatic increase in consumption.

Mr al-Shalabi notes that a further reduction in oil prices will not lead to increased sales. He states that if OPEC countries want to increase revenues by lowering oil prices, they will not succeed.

This pessimism by OPEC has been met with some optimism by the consuming countries. A study issued recently by the Organization for International [as published] Cooperation and Development, which includes 22 industrialized countries, predicts that oil consumption will increase by 5.7 percent during the first quarter of this year because of the economic recovery in North America. The organization expects that world demand will increase to 44.1 million barrels per day. However, OPEC sources say that a basic difference in today's oil market is that increased demand in North America only benefits non-OPEC oil producing countries. The American company Gulf Oil, some of whose facilities are for sale and being fought over by other oil companies, has told governments and oil companies not to be so sanguine about the world oil situation because threats by Iraq and Iran are serious and not merely intimidations. The company also says that the Gulf "fire" is slowly beginning to spread to the oil wells. Iran will not be satisfied with closing the Strait of Hormuz, but rather it will "go after Western interests wherever they are found," as stated by Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i. Experts interpret this threat as an Iranian intention to strike Persian Gulf oil facilities if it fails to close the Strait of Hormuz. In the view of Gulf Oil, a 4.4 million barrel per day shortage would result from a closure of the Strait of Hormuz. This figure is arrived at by subtracting the amount of oil flowing through the strait from the amount non-Gulf producing countries are able to produce in compensation for the shortage. The American company says that the daily flow of oil through Hormuz totals about 8.7 million barrels, broken down as follows: 3.7 million barrels of Saudi oil, 1.9 million barrels of Iranian oil, 2.4 million barrels of oil from Kuwait, the UAE, and Qatar, and about 600,000 barrels from various other sources.

However, other states can only compensate for 4.4 [as published] million barrels per day, including 1.1 million barrels from Nigeria, .9 million barrels from Libya, .8 million barrels from Venezuela, .4 million from Algeria, .3 million from Indonesia, .1 million from Ecuador and Gabon, .3 million from Mexico, .3 million from the North Sea, and .1 million from other countries for a total of 4.3 million barrels per day. Therefore, there would be a 4.4 million barrel per day shortage. Such a shortage would immediately lead to a price increase of \$6 per barrel on the first day and \$6 to \$12 during subsequent days. If it were to become clear that the American fleet could not open the Strait of Hormuz, or if Iran destroyed other oil facilities, the price of oil would reach \$70 per barrel, and \$120 per barrel during the next stage. It is noteworthy that the only thing that saves the current oil situation from declining further is an escalation in the Iran-Iraq war. The main beneficiaries would be non-Gulf oil producers and oil companies. It is also noteworthy that the world is viewing the situation in the Gulf calmly, while OPEC and other producing countries, such as Mexico and England, are concerned about the petroleum situation since they see nothing in the foreseeable future to break the trend.

From the beginning of the 1970's until now, oil production has come to depend on political developments to rescue it from its dilemmas. If it were not for the October 1973 war, the producing countries would not have been able to increase their prices five-fold. Had it not been for the anti-shah demonstrations and the apparition of an Iranian revolution raising its head, OPEC could not have raised its prices 14 percent in 1978. Had it not been for the Iranian revolution, which broke out in February 1979, oil prices could not have been corrected further. Will the Gulf war rescue oil from its current dilemma?

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

EFFORTS TOWARD EGYPTIAN-IRAQI RAPPROCHEMENT DISCLOSED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 52, 7 Apr 84 p 15

[Article by Diyab Nabahan: "Dimensions of Iraqi-Egyptian Talks; Egyptian Affirmation of Support for Iraqi Position in War and Peace; Cairo Has Consulted with Baghdad on Political Efforts and Has Been Reassured of Iraq's Combat Position"]

[Text] Baghdad--Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, last week completed a visit to Baghdad which he has described as very important and successful. The visit came within the framework of reviewing the Egyptian efforts that have been exerted and that continue to be exerted to put an end to the Iraq-Iran war that has been going on for 3.5 years so far without any sign in the horizon indicating a realistic Iranian position reflecting Tehran's wish for mediation or its inclination toward peace. Meanwhile, the declarations and statements of the Iranian officials reflect an ever-escalating determination to continue the war and to cling to the military option which the observers assert Iran has lost, as they have asserted that the Iranian obstinacy on prolonging the war does not rely on any convincing justifications.

The Egyptian efforts in this regard did not start with Kamal Hasan 'Ali's visit to Baghdad because the Egyptian foreign minister's visit has come within the framework of a series of contacts made by the Egyptian Government with several international circles, including Turkey, Yugoslavia and others. President Husni Mubarak had received a message from Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in her capacity as chairman of the current session of the nonaligned movement asking Egypt to participate with the nonaligned countries in an urgent initiative to stop the war, as a result of the serious developments during the past two months. Furthermore, diplomatic circles indicate the receipt of several letters from member nonaligned countries by Indira Ghandi calling for revitalizing the movement's efforts toward mediation to stop the war within the framework of the resolutions of the seventh New Delhi summit which convened in March 1983.

The Egyptian foreign minister's visit to Baghdad was of a purely political nature and did not involve any protocol arrangements or any subcommittees customarily involved in talks between states. This has given the visit a

special weight in the political sphere, especially since it came immediately after the emergency meeting of the Arab ministers of foreign affairs which was held in Baghdad recently and was devoted to discussing the war issue and the dangers threatening the area because of the Iranian insistence to continue the war. Egypt was absent from this meeting. Rather, it was not invited to attend the meeting because it is still outside the Arab League. However, it can be said that Egypt did attend the meeting of the Arab ministers of foreign affairs, that Kamal Hasan 'Ali's visit came to complement the foreign ministers' procession and that the visit is a gesture of support, for the resolutions taken by the meeting and for Iraq's political position. Thus, all the Arabs, excluding Syria and Libya, have attended the meeting.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali has conveyed an urgent message from President Husni Mubarak to President Saddam Husayn concerning the Egyptian efforts exerted to put an end to the war and concerning the contacts made by the Egyptian Government in this regard, especially since Egypt is a member of the Security Council and of the nonalignment group and has strong relations with Iraq. This gives Egypt a broad scope for movement, contacts and consultations and a chance to play a role in reaching a formula that encourages putting an end to this war, whether within the framework of the nonaligned movement, of the Security Council or of the Islamic Conference Organization from which emanated the Good Offices Committee under the chairmanship of the late President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

In the press conference he held at Qasr al-Rashid Hotel prior to leaving Baghdad, Kamal Hasan 'Ali underlined "Egypt's support for Iraq with its heart and soul," saying: "Egypt will not hesitate to offer any support Iraq needs." But what must be noted, as the Egyptian official put it, is that "Iraq has the strength that enables it to repel any new Iranian offensive. Iraq has proven through the battles it has waged that it has the capability to defend its borders, with God's will."

While the efforts being exerted by Egypt to put an end to the war continue through the contacts which Cairo is making these days at the international level, the question being raised by the political circles and by observers is: Will the current international efforts and endeavors to mediate between Iraq and Iran meet any response from Tehran? Will there be signs of the possibility of the emergence of a serious Iranian desire to deal with the mediators to put an end to the fighting and to turn to negotiations as a means to settle the issues disputed by the two countries peacefully and in a fair and honorable manner that guarantees the rights and internal security of all the parties involved and that spares the area countless dangers?

The observer faces no noteworthy difficulty in finding the answer to this question through an examination of the latest Iranian official statements, especially the statement made by Khomeyni before he decided to retreat for 3 weeks which will end on the seventh of this month (April) in which he said that the war with Iraq "is necessary for revival of the Islamic awakening." This is in addition to Khomeyni's adoption of a policy in accordance with which he permits himself to interfere in the domestic affairs of the neighboring countries.

Ali Akbar Velayati, Tehran's minister of foreign affairs, has reiterated his country's previous position toward the war after a visit he made recently to Algeria when he said that Iran will not abandon its previous conditions to stop the war.

On its part, Iraq is displaying a broad response to the mediation efforts at the various degrees and levels, is dealing objectively with these efforts and is offering at the same time terms which constitute more of principles than conditions to end the conflict, such as non-intervention in the domestic affairs of each of the two countries and respecting the sovereignty, independence and political options of each country. Despite this, there are almost no indications of a realistic Iranian position toward the war even though voices whose importance cannot be underestimated have risen within the ruling establishment in Iran and in the spiritual and political circles calling for dealing with the war in a realistic manner. In the wake of the latest battles, these voices have begun to cast serious doubts on the objectives and benefit from continuing the war and on the continuation of the policy which has given Iran so far nothing but harmful negative, if not extremely serious, consequences.

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CSO: 4404/419

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

GCC LEADERSHIP--Well-informed Gulf sources have told AL-TADAMUN that there are no indications that the people who currently occupy the major posts in the Gulf Cooperation Council General Secretariat will be replaced. These include 'Abdallah Bisharah (Kuwaiti)--Secretary General; Ibrahim al-Subhi (Omani)--Assistant to the Secretary General for Political Affairs; and Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz (Saudi)--Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs. It appears that agreement to renew their terms for another 3 years was reached during incidental discussions at the summit held in Doha last November. Extensions of the terms of the three officials is confirmed by the fact that, according to GCC regulations, terms of office last 3 years and this May 3 years will have elapsed. Since the next GCC summit will be held in Kuwait next November, and since a change of appointments requires a summit meeting, the widespread impression is that Bisharah, al-Subhi, and al-Quwayz will remain in their positions for another 3 years. [Text] [London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 49, 17 Mar 84 p 6] 12608

OPEC PRODUCTION DECLINE--Petroleum expert (Van Dingleshoven) believes that world demand for OPEC oil could decline in coming weeks by as much as 1 million barrels per day to less than the 17.5 million barrels which is OPEC's production ceiling. The expert expects that world demand for OPEC production will reach levels ranging from 16 to 16.5 million barrels per day in March and April. However, demand will increase beginning in June for the first time since 1977. This prediction comes amid international fears that new Iranian attacks on Iraq will lead to Iraqi destruction of Iranian oil exporting facilities, something which would deprive the world market of about 2 million barrels of oil per day. Observers are convinced that closing the Strait of Hormuz has become impossible for the Iranians since American ships are now concentrated near the strait. Observers also believe that Iran is unable militarily and politically to destroy the Iraqi Kirkuk oil fields in one decisive counterattack. The fields are well-protected militarily and bombing or damaging them would provoke the anger of parties that in the past have warned Iran to leave the Kirkuk fields alone. It is worth noting that Turkey is supplied with Kirkuk oil through the Iraq-Turkey pipeline. In the opinion of the Kuwaiti Minister of Petroleum Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah, closure of the Strait of Hormuz would lead immediately to an increase in oil prices of between \$4 and \$6 per barrel. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic No 368, 10 Mar 84 p 41] 12608

CSO: 4404/379

ASALA, MOJAHEDIN-E KHALQ ORGANIZATION THREATEN TURKEY

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 30 Mar 84 pp 1,4

[Text] Following the recent spate of unsuccessful assassination attempts [against Turkish diplomats] in Tehran, ASALA [Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia] yesterday issued a new threat against airline companies which offer air travel services into and out of Turkey. An unidentified person speaking Farsi with an Armenian accent called the AFP office in Tehran and said:

"Our military units are on the alert everywhere around the world. All aggressionist and imperialist governments which support the Turkish government as well as all airline companies which offer air travel services into and out of Turkey are hereby warned. Because our attacks will continue and much blood will be shed. The blame for the bloodshed will fall on Turkey."

The caller also disclosed that the terrorist who was killed while placing a bomb under [Turkish embassy official] Isil Uner's car was called Garabed Pastajian.

Iranian authorities have been continuing their investigations under a veil of secrecy to uncover the terrorists who have not yet been arrested. According to information obtained by Turkish embassy circles in Tehran, the terrorist who was killed by the bomb he was trying to plant may have been a Turkish citizen. However, no definite information is yet available on this issue.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who personally inspected the security measures around the Turkish embassy, had a second meeting yesterday with Turkish Ambassador Ismet Bilisel. Velayati has placed his armored car and security staff at the disposal of the Turkish embassy officials to enable them to commute between their homes and the embassy. The ambassador has declared a state of emergency inside the embassy compound. In view of the fact that the Iranian authorities could not provide police guards for every Turkish embassy household, families of embassy officials are now grouped in five houses protected by security measures. Only two families have been left out, and they have been instructed not to leave their homes for the moment. These measures are naturally only temporary. However, the ambassador insists that the incidents are not over yet and that there are suspicious Armenians watching the embassy.

Pamukcu Suffers Stroke

The Deputy Military Attache, Ismail Pamukcu, who was critically wounded in the course of the recent terrorist attacks in Tehran, is still reported to be in a state of coma, and his doctors have disclosed that the left side of his body has been paralyzed by a stroke. Pamukcu's condition remains critical, but Professor Sefik Unlu, who flew to Tehran to attend on Pamukcu, said that Iranian doctors have provided all essential care to the wounded and that they performed a successful surgery on Pamukcu. Pamukcu's brain became swollen as a result of the surgery performed on his skull, and this caused the stroke. However, it is likely that the swelling in his brain will subside in coming days and that he will come out of his coma.

Iran Blames U.S.

It was noted that the Iranian press did not report the assassination attempt yesterday. Meanwhile, the Iranian television blamed the United States in a commentary on Wednesday evening. The commentary charged that the United States wants to undermine the developing Turkish-Iranian relations.

The Iranian Ambassador in Ankara, Mohammad Ganjidost, declared that the perpetrators of the attacks will certainly be punished because Iran opposes all forms of terrorism.

Several reports and comments appeared in the French press in connection with the incidents, but, notably, this time the well-known genocide literature was not aired. All the French papers agreed that ASALA's goal this time was to upset the equilibrium of Turkey's relations with Iran and Iraq.

HURRIYET correspondent Engin Bilginer sheds some interesting light on the issue in his report today and discloses that ASALA staged the latest series of terrorist attacks with the cooperation of an organization named "Mojahedin-e Khalq." This underground Iranian organization recently dispatched threatening letters to the legations of several countries, including the Turkish embassy, stating that all countries collaborating with Iran's "treacherous" leaders must be punished.

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CSO: 4605/57

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

TURKISH REPORTER IN TEHRAN: DEPUTY ATTACHE STILL IN COMA

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 31 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] HURRIYET correspondent Engin Belginer reports from Tehran that Deputy Military Attache Ismail Pamukcu continues to remain in a state of coma. While the second wounded victim, Hasan Oktem--who recovered quickly even though he was hit by three bullets--returned to Turkey last night, a new surgery was performed on Pamukcu's respiratory tract to allow him to breathe. The surgery was performed at the suggestion of Turkish specialist Professor Sefik Unlu. Unlu went to the hospital yesterday to examine the patient, gave instructions to hospital authorities and then returned to Turkey together with First Secretary Hasan Oktem.

According to information obtained from Turkish embassy circles in Tehran, it is now understood that the Armenian terrorist groups had organized a concurrent assault on Turkish diplomats and their residences and offices. Seven of the selected targets are now known; the attacks staged against those ended in almost complete failure. Three other targets had also been selected, but their identities are being kept secret for the moment for security reasons. Thus the ASALA [Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia] terrorists were going to attack exactly 10 targets, and these attacks were going to be carried out by ten two-man teams.

The locations of these ten targets are considerably removed from each other and it is amazing that the terrorists were able to collect all these addresses--mostly addresses of embassy officials' residences which were known only to the Iranian Foreign Ministry and which are generally kept secret from others. For example, Hasan Okten, who was wounded, rented a new residence three months ago and was not in Tehran for the past month. Consequently, his address was not reported to the Iranian Foreign Ministry. The terrorists, however, found the address.

Two days ago, a suspicious person knocked on the door of Administrative Attache Ibrahim Ozdemir and said that he was from the power company and that he wanted to take a meter reading. When security officials guarding the house examined the man's papers, he was found out to be an Armenian. The man was taken to the police station for questioning.

So far, 16 persons have been questioned by police in Tehran, including the electrician who was detained.

9588
CSO: 4605/60

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

EVREN ASKS REAGAN NOT TO 'ENCOURAGE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM'

Istanbul JAMANAK in Armenian 7 Apr 84 p1

[Text] Washington--President Kenan Evren has sent to U.S. President Ronald Reagan a letter on terrorism. According to information obtained by AKAJANS [Mediterranean News Agency] from reliable sources, in the letter delivered to President Reagan by the Turkish embassy in Washington, President Evren recalls Reagan's remarks following the terrorist attack on the Turkish embassy in Lisbon and emphasizes that international terrorism would be encouraged if the four anti-Turkish bills submitted to Congress by Armenians in the United States are approved.

In his letter, President Evren also states that the time has come for cooperation against international terrorism.

Following the terrorist attack on our embassy in Lisbon, President Reagan said--also referring to previous Armenian attacks on Turkish diplomats and institutions: "This meaningless violence must be ended."

Stating that no amount of bitterness can justify such terrorist acts in these modern times, Reagan said: "I will hold contacts with the leaders of other countries with an eye to taking mandatory and more effective collective measures in order to end such barbaric and inhuman acts in civilized societies."

As is known, Armenian-Americans have submitted four bills--two in the House of Representatives and two in the Senate--which support their cause.

Bill No. 171 submitted to the House of Representatives demands the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the U.S. government. The second bill in the House alleges that a genocide was committed and envisions the declaration of 24 April as a day "to commemorate man's inhumanity to man." The bills submitted to the Senate demand the endorsement of 24 April as a day "to commemorate the victims of genocide, in particular those of the Armenian Genocide."

9588

CSO: 4605/64

SAYED DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO

Paris SAHARA INFO in French No 66-67, Jun-Dec 83 p 5

[Interview with Bechir Mustapha Sayed, a member of the POLISARIO Executive Committee; date and place not specified]

[Text] While passing through Paris, Bechir Mustapha Sayed, who headed the POLISARIO delegation invited by the Socialist Party to attend the Bourg-en-Bress Congress, gave us the following interview. It took place prior to the UN vote.

[Question] What is currently the situation from a diplomatic viewpoint? The deadlock seems to be once again undisputed after the failure of the Addis Ababa meeting of the OAU Implementation Committee on 22 September.

[Answer] The resolution unanimously adopted during the OAU general assembly called for arranging a referendum to deal with the self-determination of the Sahraoui people before the end of 1983. To this end, the resolution called for direct preliminary negotiations between the two explicitly named opponents in the conflict, namely, Morocco and the POLISARIO, for the purpose of defining the terms of the cease-fire. Morocco, whose delegation was headed by the heir to the crown, Prince Sidi Mohamed, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Boucetta, refused to seat with the POLISARIO delegation, headed by its secretary general Mohamed Abdelaziz. Morocco proclaims to all comers that it agrees in principle with the referendum, but it refuses to negotiate the cease-fire and the terms of the meeting with the POLISARIO.

By thus flouting the OAU's decisions, Morocco is causing the deadlock. Under these circumstances, the calling of next year's meeting in Conakry is being strongly compromised, should Morocco persist in its obstinacy.

[Question] How do you view the role of Senegal in favor of the implementation of the OAU resolution?

[Answer] You must know that until very recently Senegal was one of the stronger supporters of the Moroccan position concerning Western Sahara.

Senegal is held in high regard in the northwest regions of Africa. It is mindful of the Africans' best interest which is mainly defended by the Organization

of African Unity. The OAU's paralysis is harmful to Africa as a whole and Senegal now believes that it is time for peace to resume in that region of Africa. It is in that spirit that Senegal actively contributed to the formulation, then to the adoption of the resolution of the 19th Summit. It is understandable that Senegal should feel betrayed by Morocco's turnabout. The meeting between President Abou Diouf and Mohamed Abdelaziz, secretary general of the POLISARIO, was a turning point in the conflict. The role of Senegal is eminently positive.

[Question] What is then Hassan II's strategy?

[Answer] Hassan II has no plan. His policy lies solely in marking time, day to day, so to speak. His only remaining allies are his "unconditionals," namely, Sékou Touré's Guinea and Zaire, two African countries on which he exerts very material pressures. The turnabout of Guinea which had declared in a joint Algerian-Guinean declaration being favorable to the implementation of the resolution, then retracted itself, is a flagrant proof of the subordination of the Conakry regime to Rabat. Hassan II may be hoping that the next OAU meeting in Conakry, which should be chaired by his loyal Sékou Touré, will open more favorable possibilities. However, can a general assembly, which assumes a minimum of trust and candor among participants, be logically considered if the decisions of the preceding assembly have been flouted by some of its members?

[Question] Morocco advertised loudly the guarantees of neutrality obtained from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi when he visited Rabat in July on the invitation of Morocco. According to the Moroccans, Libya promised to stop assisting the POLISARIO militarily. What is exactly happening? Did not this visit bolster Morocco's uncompromising attitude?

[Answer] As you mentioned, Morocco is a master in the art of propaganda. It takes its wishes for realities. We have a saying in my country that says approximately this: "When you think that you see the oasis upon the horizon (mirage), you do not see the water at your feet." Morocco believes that it sees Libya's turnabout and it cannot see our Libyan brothers' aid.

[Question] Disregarding the customary skirmishes, last year's battles in Lemseyed in Southern Morocco, then in Smara, on the wall, followed almost two years of military inactivity on the part of the POLISARIO (the last large-scale battle being that fought at Guelta).

[Answer] Morocco wants to pretend that these battles were the heaviest since the beginning of the conflict. It is not so. To be sure, for the first time, Morocco used "Gazelle"-type French helicopters equipped with "Hot" ground-to-air missiles, but with little results. As for us, we did not use any new equipment in those battles.

The ALPS [Saharan People's Liberation Army] fighters simply had to adjust to the long-range radar detection techniques protecting the wall; our army had to perfect adequate attack tactics and train for them. Our goal was to show Moroccan soldiers that, contrarily to what their officers were telling them, the wall with its radars is not absolutely secure, the proof being that we occupied several support positions defending the wall. The wall is Hassan's retaliatory tool, its last card. We showed we could overtake the wall whenever we wanted.

[Question] What do you think of France's current attitude and of the role it could play in the peaceful settlement of the conflict?

[Answer] For the past 2 years, we have had contacts with France, but these agreements have not always been satisfying for us; in addition, we have had our ups and downs depending on the hierarchy of the French interlocutors. I should add that we are currently going through a low phase. We do not understand. What is France waiting for before using its political and economic influence with Morocco in order to make it respect its promises toward the African and international community?

6857

CSO: 4519/144

DEVELOPMENTS IN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TRACED

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic No 52, 7 Apr 84 p 63

[Article: "Industry Sector Implements Its Priorities and Meets Most Consumption Needs"]

[Text] Baghdad--As diagnosed by the Iraqi leadership throughout the past few years, one of the most prominent objectives of the imposed war is perhaps the objective of obstructing the social and economic development trends, in addition to threatening the national sovereignty. This is why the leadership has projected since the outset of the war the method of comprehensive fundamental confrontation whose dimensions are embodied clearly within the framework of the following two interlocked courses:

Protecting the people's security and the country's national sovereignty and international borders.

Carrying on with the development plans while modifying them according to the requirements of bolstering the war effort on the basis of flexible priorities and of giving top priority to the production sectors.

In light of this, a brief picture can be given of the accomplishments made by the industry and mining sector during the war years. Before drawing the features of this picture, two facts must be underlined:

First, the difficulty of taking complete inventory of all the developments achieved in the various spheres of sectoral activity. By necessity, this leads to focusing on the most important aspects of progress that most strongly reflect the development achieved.

Second, these accomplishments have been coupled with giving preference, with the passage of time, to the system of direct implementation which relies more and more on the expertise accumulated in the industrial sector.

Now then, the most prominent developments crystallized in this sector during the years of the war imposed on Iraq are embodied in building 50 subsidiary electricity plants with varying capacities, in addition to 28 more plants distributed over a number of the country's governorates and to enlargement of the subsidiary plants in most provinces. The cornerstone has also been

laid for numerous plants which will be completed at a future stage. Meanwhile, numerous electricity control centers have been completed and have started operating in Iraq's main provinces.

Insofar as conveying services to the countryside is concerned, the war period has witnessed completion of the biggest rural electrification project in the Arab homeland. Electricity has been conveyed to more than 4,250 villages in the country's various parts, in addition to strengthening the electricity network and enhancing its capacity and stability. Regarding the engineering industries which form the fundamental base for any industrial progress, numerous tangible developments have materialized during the war years, especially in terms of completing new projects and production lines, foremost of which is the Babil wet-cell batteries plant, the electric irons plant, the field cables and wooden spools plants, the flourescent lamps project, the automatic line for the production of incandescent lamps, a complete line for the production of dry cell batteries and the plant to pulverize used batteries and extract lead from them.

In the preceding months of 1984, numerous projects were completed and entered the sphere of production, including the plant for the production of electricity transformers with high technical standards. Al-Qadisiyah Public Organization for Electrical Industries has established production targets that seek to meet the country's needs until the year 2000, in addition to creating the possibility of exportation to the outside world. The Nasr Public Organization for Mechanical Industries opened in February 1984 a project for the production of iron molds, equipment and structures and the central services projects. These projects complement each other, producing hot and cold molds and equipment and instruments of various kinds through the use of modern technology in order to meet the neds of the engineering industries sector.

The same month witnessed the inauguration of the project for the production of the new spark plugs, called "Iraq," with an annual production capacity of nearly 15 million spark plugs of 20 different varieties. The production will meet more than 90 percent of the needs of the vehicles found in the country and the project can be expanded by 20 percent.

Insofar as the chemical industries are concerned, the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources has completed the project to recycle paper and the pressboard project for the production of wood covered with melamine. There is a broad sphere for the use of this wood in decor and in house furniture.

Insofar as metal industries are concerned, a project has been completed for the re-production of sulfur and sulfuric acid from sulfur waste. This is the first project of its kind in the world and the first Iraqi technical knowledge transformed into an industrial production project.

8494
CSO: 4404/419

BANGLADESH

ERSHAD DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 31 Mar 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. General H. M. Ershad has said the Soviet Union-Bangladesh ties have not suffered any strain despite what happened in the recent past.

The president said the two countries are 'still friends and whatever has happened will not jeopardise our relations'.

Replying to a question raised by Soviet Tass news agency reporter during his luncheon meeting with foreign correspondents on Thursday President Ershad with oblique reference to the expulsion of Soviet diplomats said 'at times such things may happen between two friendly nations'.

President Ershad's optimism about Bangladesh-Soviet relations follows recent initiatives taken by the Soviets to normalise ties with Bangladesh. The Soviet Union is learnt to have offered to resume the barter trade with Bangladesh which remained suspended following the expulsion twelve Soviet diplomats and two other non-diplomatic employees of that country from Bangladesh between December 26 last year and January 3 this year. The Soviet diplomats were expelled when some of them were found involved in the country-wide anti-government agitation in late November last year.

President Ershad at that time said Bangladesh had sufficient evidence to justify the expulsion of Soviet diplomats. Bangladesh foreign ministry, however, did not provide any official explanation of the circumstances leading to the expulsion.

Soviet official media criticised the Bangladesh move and charged the country with following an anti-Soviet line.

The Soviet Union, according to official sources showed interest in improving the bilateral ties when deputy chief martial law administrator Rear Admiral M. A. Khan went to Moscow to attend the funeral of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov. It also offered to purchase jute from Bangladesh last month. According to a barter trade pact signed in the second week of this month Moscow agreed to buy 8900 tons of jute and in exchange Bangladesh would get 2000 tons of cotton as per the agreement.

Reliable sources also indicated that a cultural pact between the two countries may also be signed in the next month.

It may be recalled here that Bangladesh authorities ordered to close down the Soviet Cultural Centre in Dhaka in January. The centre is still closed. Some sources believe with the normalisation of relations the Soviet Union may ask for reopening the cultural centre.

Meanwhile the new Bangladesh ambassador designate to Moscow Najmuddin Hashim is learnt to be preparing to take up his new assignment next month. Mr Hashim also attended Yuri Andropov's funeral along with Real Admiral M. A. Khan.

CSO: 4600/1751

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ERSHAD GOVERNMENT REVIEWED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Mar 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Government of President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad steps into third year today (Saturday) with considerable successes during the last two years in various spheres of national life for building a self-reliant, democratic and prosperous new Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The epoch-making steps of the present Government such as decentralisation of administration and judiciary, reformative measures in the fields of commerce, industry and agriculture and realistic planning in other areas of economic activities, are expected to contribute enormously to achieving the cherished objectives of a happy future for our posterity.

The upgradation of 460 thanas into upazilas under the decentralisation of administration programme is considered as an important milestone in the efforts to reach administration to the doorsteps of the masses whose interests always went by default in the past.

Sixteen Government functionaries including magistracy and judiciary have been shifted to the headquarters of each upazila for the benefit of the rural masses. This new arrangement which replaces the age-old colonial system of administration, is aimed at developing effective and responsible leadership from the grassroots level and involving people in the mainstream of development activities.

The policy of the Government to disinvest industries, contain inflation, increase export earnings and augment foreign exchange reserve has met with considerable success. The policy of disinvestment has injected a new lease of life to the hitherto crippled economy of the country. The land reform measure to protect the interest of the landless peasantry and poor sharecroppers adds yet another feather to the cap of the Government.

The realistic steps taken by the Government of General Ershad to revitalise the country's ailing economy have paid handsome dividends so far. The GSP (Gross Domestic Products) rose by 3.7 per cent in the previous year. It is expected to increase by 53 per cent during the current fiscal year. The inflation now stands at 9.27 per cent as against 10.1 per cent in 1983.

The foreign exchange reserve has also improved appreciably during the last two years. The country's foreign exchange reserve stood at Taka 1267 crore on March 2 this year compared to Taka 604 crore on March 31, 1983. Bank deposits also increased from Taka 4259.47 crore in March, 1983 to Taka 5974.76 crore in February this year.

In the industrial sector, 1567 new industrial units with an investment outlay of Taka 1051 crore including foreign exchange component of Taka 530 crore were sanctioned during the span of the last two years. Besides 208 new units having an investment of Taka 51 crore in the open sector were registered. 35 joint venture units with investment provision of Taka 83 crore have been sanctioned. All sector corporations which were running at loss have been made profitable with the streamlining of the administration.

Under the disinvestment policy 33 jute mills and 25 textile mills were returned to their former Bangladeshi owners. Besides 31 other industrial units were returned and 17 more are in the process of being returned. 256 small units outside the control of the corporations had been disinvested and 175 more are underway.

The new industrial policy of the Government was launched with a view to expanding the manufacturing base of the country rapidly both for import substitute and export. The major thrust of the new policy is the enlargement of the role of private sector. Only six industries, which are basic, strategic and public utilities are now reserved for the Government and all other industries are now open for participation and 175 more are underway of private sector.

The Government has also adopted some concrete steps to attract foreign investments in the country.

The cloth production increased from 402 lakh yards to 435 lakh yards during the fiscal year of 1982-83. The export earning of the country was Taka 360.78 crore during the last eight months ending February.

The drug policy of the Government prohibits the sale of harmful, ineffective and unnecessary drugs. As many as 1707 drugs have been banned under the new drug policy. Efforts were being made to achieve self sufficiency in drugs by encouraging local firms and industry.

Treatment facilities have been expanded during the last two years by increasing 550 beds in the Government hospitals. Three new industrial hospitals have been set up to improve the treatment facilities in the industrial areas.

Improvement in the supply of agricultural inputs like fertilizers and loans has helped the country produce 1.59 crore tons of foodgrains recording an increase of 10 lakh tons. The expansion of the Grameen Bank scheme will greatly help the poverty-stricken people of the rural areas stand on their own feet by engaging themselves in income generating activities.

Some major steps undertaken by the present government has brought significant improvement in the railway sector. The Railway Board has been abolished and the railway administration has been placed under a Director General to make it more efficient and dynamic.

Following the adoption of decentralisation policy railway was divided into two zones--eastern and western. Twelve broad gauge and 18 meter gauge electric engines were brought besides 1256 bogies for carrying cargo. Railway signalling system has been modernised and nine new railway stations were constructed.

In the field of road communications, roads suitable for round the year transportation have been built in 271 upazila headquarters connecting the district headquarters connecting the district headquarters and highways. During the current fiscal year 148 miles of road are being metalled while another 22 miles are being partially metalled, 110 miles brick solling road are being built besides widening 98 miles road. Earth work for building roads covering 87 miles has been completed.

Two ferries were bought from Denmark at a cost of Taka 12 crore to improve riverine communications. Fifty new launch ghats are being constructed for the convenience of the passengers of riverine routes. Four ships have been procured to improve further the communication facilities between the off shore islands and coastal areas.

The Government has started the construction work of two multipurpose jetties at an estimated cost of Taka 350 crore.

Considerable progress has also been achieved in the telecommunication sector. Small telephone exchanges have been installed in 382 upazila while similar exchanges are being installed in rest of upazilas. International subscribers dialling system has been introduced in the country for the first time.

Bangladesh Biman has earned a profit of Taka six crore in six months of the current fiscal year. An airport has been constructed in Rajshahi to bring the northern region under air communication network.

CSO: 4600/1739

PRESIDENT ERSHAD ADDRESSES FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Mar 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] President H. M. Ershad firmly ruled out the possibility of a caretaker government being installed in the country and was equally categorical in stating that Martial Law would not be lifted before the summoning of the next Parliament.

President Ershad in an opening statement at a luncheon meeting with the members of the Overseas Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (OCAB) at a local hotel on Thursday said he did not seize power voluntarily. He was reluctant to impose Martial Law and was forced to do so by the people.

He was of the view that this was the first Martial Law that had been widely acclaimed by the people. Asked to substantiate his point the Chief Martial Law Administrator said there was no opposition to the proclamation of Martial Law and no one raised any objection. This led President Ershad to surmise that promulgation of Martial Law was welcomed by all.

He said he believes in democracy and had given enough indications of that. He said "I want to establish democracy. I hope transfer of power takes place [words illegible] want to hand over power peacefully".

Asked if this meant that he would not be a candidate in the coming election, the CMLA said power would be transferred to whoever wins the election.

President Ershad reserved his comments on the remarks made by Begun Khaleda Zia that BNP would not participate in the elections under Martial Law. He said it would be premature to say anything on this. He said "We would meet soon and know her views".

Asked whether the Government was determined to hold the parliamentary and presidential polls on the same day, President Ershad said that the Government has taken this decision with a view to reducing the expenditure by about Tk. 15 crore and also on the suggestion made by various political parties. President Ershad said no problem was unsurmountable and hoped that the political crises now besetting the country would be overcome through the process of dialogue with the major Opposition political alliances. He said "We have invited them. They have agreed to come". He hoped that dialogue would produce some results and the country would go back to [words illegible].

Denying the allegation that he had killed democracy President Ershad said he was the first man to visit the ailing Vice-President Sattar at the CMH and asked him to take over the presidency after the killing of President Ziaur Rahman. He said "I saluted him and told him that the armed forces would back him". He said only time and people would judge his role. He said government would like to maintain the present schedule of elections if the political parties agree.

Asked if he would be a candidate in the coming election President Ershad evaded a direct reply and said "Wait and see".

The President said no date has yet been fixed for the dialogue but both the alliances have conveyed their willingness to join the dialogue with the Government. A mutually convenient date would be fixed soon, he said. He said government was seriously considering restoration of certain clauses of the fundamental rights before the elections.

President Ershad did not share the view of a questioner that failure to hold the upazila elections was a serious setback to the concept. He said upazilas are working but it would have been better if they were managed by elected representatives of the people. He said Government's only intention was to democratise the institution. He said upazila scheme is going to help the people.

The CMLA said Government had postponed the upazila elections to avoid an unnecessary confrontation. He said a reign of terror was created and the life and property of the people were threatened. The CMLA, however, did not say who created the reign of terror.

The CMLA admitted that corruption had not been completely eliminated. He held the present system responsible for the proliferation of corruption and viewed only change of system would help in combating this disease. He is of the opinion that decentralisation would reduce the scale of corruption. Rules framed 200 years ago need to be changed, he added.

Mr. Hasan Shahriar, President of OCAB had earlier apprised the President of the difficulties faced by the correspondents in sending their dispatches timely mainly due to interference of "unknown hands".

President Ershad assured that all possible steps would be taken to facilitate the transmission of news by the correspondents. He also informed that there would be a regular Press briefing at the Secretariat and also Bangobhaban from April first.

BSS adds the President reiterated Bangladesh stand on keeping Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and free from super power rivalry. "We are against arms race and we think the huge amount of money spent for arms buildup could be used for the development of poorer countries. We want to live in peace and maintain our development."

Replying to a question on the present state of bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Soviet Union, President Ershad said, "at times something may happen between two friendly countries which does not necessarily jeopardise the good relationship between them. We have still very good relationship. I don't think there was any serious damage in our bilateral relationship and I am sure whatever happened will not come in the way of our bilateral relationship that we have."

President Ershad said journalists are the conscious keeper of the society and hoped that they could help maintain a congenial socia-political atmosphere conducive to peaceful transition to democracy.

He said the government is keen to have better communication with the journalists so that they could have better understanding of the happenings in the country. "We are contemplating a system towards this end," he added.

CSO: 4600/1747

PAPER CRITICIZES FOREIGN SERVICE APPOINTMENTS

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 24 Mar 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] The austerity drive in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, so loudly and pompously proclaimed from atop the Foreign Office about two years ago, now lies buried under the growing weight of mounting expenditures and irrational administrative decisions.

Instances, cited below, will substantiate the point.

The downgrading of a number of Bangladesh missions on the plea of cutting down expenses during the initial stage of this government made big news in the national press. But some of these missions have recently been upgraded again without any fanfare. Our missions in Qatar, Brazil, Algeria, Senegal and GDR have been upgraded to the ambassadorial level without any explanation given by the Foreign Office for their upgradation. Charge d'affaires at some of these places have been made ambassadors by breaking normal diplomatic norms.

While Qatar, Brazil and Senegal have been deemed to be important places to deserve fullscale embassies, Bangladesh does not have a mission in Syria, now the principal centre of the Middle East drama.

Changes

The changes made in some of Bangladesh missions and also at the Foreign Office are without any rationale. The foreign ministry is without any additional foreign secretary now. Abul Ahsan, who was additional secretary, has been sent out to Pakistan because he did not reportedly agree with the views of the foreign minister on many important issues.

Surprisingly, there is no one in the Foreign Office now with adequate seniority to fill the vacancy. A junior officer, said to be a favourite of the minister, is being tipped for the position, ignoring the seniority of many posted abroad.

Changes in ambassadorial assignments are no less intriguing. Qazi Ghulam Dastagir, Harunur Rashid and Nuruzzaman were not allowed to do their normal three-year stints in Pakistan, Australia and the Philippines respectively. These changes cost the national coffer a great deal.

The posting in Peking of K. M. Kaiser, who superannuated long ago, is not also easily comprehensible. This will be his third assignment in China.

New Trend

A. R. S. Doha, who is perhaps the most widely travelled foreign minister in such a short time, has also set a unique example of throwing out foreign service personnel from his ministry and placing them at odd places where they can hardly do justice to their training and experience. Two of such officers--M. R. Osmany and Khursheed Hameed--have since been brought back.

The latest to receive the axe are Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury and Humayun Kabir, both of whom together did an excellent job during the 14th ICFM. Faruq Chowdhury has been made secretary, Civil Aviation, and Humayun Kabir has been sent to the Roads and Highways Division.

Doha is the only minister to have the privilege of having two private Secretaries. One of the Private Secretaries has been designated as director, Foreign Minister's Office. He is also said to be planning to have a director general attached to his office. What is the necessity of having such a big personal office? Other ministers, not even the two DCMLAs, enjoy such privileges.

During one of his recent trips to the United States, he took with him his assistant Private Secretary who is not entitled to go out of the country with the minister.

There is a lack of communication between the foreign minister and the officials of his Ministry. Doha in a recent meeting with senior officers, rebuked them for leaking information to the national press. A senior officer said it was very difficult to have an access to the foreign minister. Even senior Bangladesh ambassadors, who come to Dhaka for consultations find it difficult to meet him.

There has been a spurt in concurrent accreditation of ambassadors and high commissioners. The High Commissioner to Australia, for instance, is accredited to no less than five other countries with which Bangladesh has little political or economic links. It is mandatory for the high commissioner to make two annual visits to the country of accreditation. So is the case with our ambassadors in Brazil and Canada and the permanent representative at the United Nations.

Is not this an additional burden on the national exchequer?

Doha holds a very poor view of the national press. During his almost two-year tenure at the Foreign Office, he could manage time to meet the national Press only once. But he is very obliging to the foreign media. He travelled from Casablanca to New York to talk to the editors of a US magazine. And for that purpose, he stayed in New York for over 10 days at government expenses. At least, that was the explanation dished out by the Foreign Office for his long absence from the country.

CSO: 4600/1742

BANGLADESH

CHANGES IN KEY ADMINISTRATION POSTS NOTED

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 24 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Changes have been made in some of the key posts of the martial law administration.

The services of Major General N. A. Chisty, general staff to the Chief Martial law Administrator, have been placed at the disposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Major General Mahmudul Hasan, director general of the Forces Intelligence (DGFI) has been made GOC, Bogra. Major General M. A. Salam, who was GOC, Bogra, will now succeed him as DGFI.

Major General M A Samad, GOC, Comilla, has been made adjutant general of the Bangladesh Army.

The changes came following the postponement of the upazila polls and the announcement about a dialogue between the government and the opposition alliances.

Major General Chisty and Major General Hasan both played a significant part in making political decisions of the government in the recent past. They, along with others, were also assigned the responsibility of participating in the pre-dialogue discussions with the 15-party alliance and the 7-party combine late last December. The move to bring the two major alliances to the dialogue with the President did not succeed.

It is learnt that they were in favour of going ahead with the upazila elections programme.

CSO: 4600/1742

REPORTAGE ON JOINT RIVER COMMISSION MEETING

Ganges Talks Reviewed

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 25 Mar 84 pp 1, 8

[Article by Kazi Montu]

[Text] The resumed session of the 26th meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) due to commence in Dhaka on March 29 will discuss the old issues of augmentation of the Ganges flows at Farakka, sharing of the Teesta waters, problems of embankments and river training works on border rivers and utilization of their water.

The 26th meeting that began in New Delhi on February 13 was adjourned on February 15 without producing any tangible result in the direction of solving these outstanding issues.

However, the adjourned meeting is going to be resumed at a time when drought has already hit Bangladesh due to drying up of many rivers and low level of the Ganges flows.

The upcoming JRC meeting will be attended by Indian Irrigation Minister, Ram Niwas Mirdha as the head of Indian team while the Bangladesh side will be led by Agriculture Minister, Obaidullah Khan.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has stressed the need for a long-term sharing arrangement for the dry season flows of the Ganges at Farakka in the form of continuation of the existing arrangements. This arrangement will continue till exploration of new alternatives since the previous proposals submitted by both the countries could not receive appreciation from the opposite sides.

In the last New Delhi meeting, Bangladesh sought a fresh mandate to explore new options within a time frame during which period the JRC should finalise its recommendations to the concerned governments.

It may be pointed out here that in 25th JRC meeting both the countries agreed to take the two previous proposals relating to the augmentation of the Ganges flows out of the purview of the Joint Committee of Experts and send them to the two governments with the recommendation of the JRC upon fulfilment of certain formalities in recognition of the wider socio-economic and implementation problems as pointed out by the Indian Irrigation Minister.

The Joint Committee of Experts was set up during the 23rd meeting of the JRC to work out the terms of reference with regard to the pre-feasibility study of the two proposals for augmenting the dry season flows of the Ganges, but in spite of the two meetings it could not make any headway.

There were differences in the attitudes of the two countries towards the issue of approaching Nepal for data and information for the study of Bangladesh proposal.

Both the countries came to an informal understanding in the resumed session of the 24th JRC meeting that separate, but simultaneous approach could be made to Nepal, but afterwards India rejected this suggestion pointing out legal bottlenecks to such an approach and hence it was not possible for Bangladesh to collect detailed data and information on its proposal with the cooperation of Nepal.

Under these circumstances, quite naturally, there has been certain data gap in the proposal of Bangladesh and Bangladesh experts had to make certain assumptions in the absence of required data.

India is now using the data gap in the original proposal of Bangladesh as a pretext to its expediency to delay the process of working out a way of settlement of the longstanding Ganges issue.

The deadlock on the issue of ad-hoc sharing to Teesta waters also continues, although the agreement on it was reached in the 25th meeting of JRC. The JRC authorised the two secretaries of India and Bangladesh to finalise a document within 90 days, but they have failed to come up with an agreed document till the last meeting.

The issues of vital concern in respect of the sharing of Teesta waters are those of availability, requirements and points of sharing.

In the 25th meeting both India and Bangladesh agreed that scientific studies should be completed by the end of 1984 for the final sharing arrangement of Teesta waters.

In the New Delhi meeting of JRC in last February Indian Irrigation Minister mentioned that the ad-hoc agreement between the two countries was being misread by imputing meanings in it undesirably.

He said that when India and Bangladesh had agreed on ad-hoc sharing of the Teesta waters it had related to ad-hoc sharing of the Teesta waters and not ad-hoc sharing of Teesta waters as some particular points in the Indian territory. He also observed that there were also certain other basic differences between the two countries.

He expressed concern at the "likely adverse effects" of the proposed Bangladesh Barrage at Teesta in the forms of flooding, submersion and obstruction of drainage in the Indian territory in spite of repeated assurances given by Bangladesh that it would not have harmful effects on the Indian territory.

However, the Indian Irrigation Minister demanded details of the proposed project in the last February meeting and Bangladesh also agreed to it for Indian satisfaction.

It is difficult to expect an understanding between the two countries on the issues of availability, requirements and points of sharing of Teesta waters in the upcoming JRC meeting as India appears to have made up its mind to kill time under various pretexts.

In the last JRC meeting held in February the Indian Irrigation Minister appreciated the works of the standing committee of JRC, although it failed to submit its report on sharing of water of border rivers Manu, Mahuri, Khowai, Gumti and Dharla (Dudhkumar) despite lapse of two years.

While finer technicalities of the issues were hampering the progress of its work river diversion works in the upper reaches of these rivers were underway or were being planned to be undertaken.

Indian Minister Arrives

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 30 Mar 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Indian Irrigation Minister Ram Niwas Mirdha said in Dhaka on Thursday that the Governments of India and Bangladesh were in touch with each other through normal channels on the question of extending the present Ganges sharing arrangement, due to expire on May 31, reports BSS.

Mr. Mirdha was talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport on his arrival at the head of an eleven-member Indian delegation to the Joint Rivers Commission meeting which resumes today (Friday).

The Indian Minister dismissed the idea of extending the Ganges sharing arrangement at the two-day meeting of the Commission saying "this is a matter beyond the jurisdiction of JRC."

Agriculture Minister and leader of Bangladesh team at the talks, Mr. Obaidullah Khan, who received Mr. Niwas, was present.

Confirming the Bangladesh request the Indian Minister said "We have received a letter for a long-term extension of present Ganges sharing arrangement."

Replying to a question on evolving a permanent sharing arrangement for the Ganges he said, "We are both very serious about it."

But he contradicted a previous position taken by both the countries to look for new ideas or alternate approaches to their two proposals--dams in Nepal and the 'link canal'--by saying "the dialogue will continue on the augmentation proposals."

Mr. Mirdha denied that India has taken a rigid stand and said that the Indian augmentation scheme was more practical than the one proposed by Bangladesh.

He described the meeting beginning in Dhaka today (Friday) as "important" because it would be the last such exercise before the mandated eighteen months to complete the pre-feasibility studies of the two augmentation schemes expire.

He said that the two sides at the meeting would make "a serious effort" to fulfil the mandate.

The JRC, under the mandate of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Heads of Government of the two countries in October 1982 was scheduled to undertake and complete the pre-feasibility of the augmentation schemes proposed by the two sides simultaneously and on an equal footing by April 6, 1984.

The JRC sources in Dhaka had clearly stated earlier that the task could not even be started as India, despite its commitment, refused to undertake the Bangladesh plan of constructing dams in Nepal.

Asked to give the Indian view as to how difficult was the task of extending the present Ganges sharing arrangement or whether it was impossible things Mr. Mirdha said, "It's not impossible. We will make a serious effort," to extend the arrangement.

"There will not be any vacuum", he maintained, after the present sharing arrangement expired.

The Indian Minister said that augmentation of the dry season Ganges flow at Farakka was a must as there was not enough water in the river for the two countries.

The Indian Minister could not say how the two sides could come to a common decision on augmenting the dry season Ganges flows reconciling or removing their wide differences to their two proposals without recourse to an alternative.

During the 25th meeting of the JRC Mr. Mirdha had clearly stated that the two countries would have to look for a new option for solving the problem while Mr. Obaidullah Khan had indicated that alternative approaches had to be explored.

Mr. Mirdha said that the Teesta sharing question and the problems of the smaller common rivers would also be discussed at the meeting.

Nepal's Inclusion Ruled Out

PTI adds: Earlier in Calcutta Mr. Mirdha said India's stand against inclusion of Nepal in the sharing of Ganges waters remained unchanged.

"We don't want a third country in solving the problem of sharing of water," he said while talking to newsmen at Dum Duni airport on his way to Dhaka to attend the JRC meeting.

He said if Bangladesh was really serious about augmenting dry season flows of Ganges water at Farakka they should accept India's proposal of construction of a 325 km-long Ganges Brahmaputra link canal. "This, he said, would solve the problem once for all".

Editorial on Talks Failure

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Apr 84 p 5

[Editorial: "Ganges Water"]

[Text] The 26th Joint River Commission meeting held in Dhaka has reportedly failed. The talks seem to have foundered on the concrete of the Farakka Barrage. Nevertheless the failure has not caused much of a surprise if the procrastination marking the proceedings extended over the years concerning a settlement of the Ganges water sharing dispute between Bangladesh and India is any guide.

The problem for Bangladesh has obviously taken on quite a serious new dimension with little or no indication emerging from the Dhaka meeting about the extension of the Ganges water sharing agreement that is expiring on May 31 next. There is also the failure of the meeting to recommend a fresh mandate after the expiry of the mandatory 18-month period fixed by the Ershad-Indira New Delhi summit due to expire on April 6. The JRC meeting also reportedly rejected both the proposals of Bangladesh and India for augmenting the dry season Ganges flows at Farakka.

With the talks as good as foredoomed to failure and despite the routine reassurance about both governments being in touch for a possible future solution the fact

that we have to face up to is that the threatened consequences of the decreased flow from the Ganges include near desertification of about a third of Bangladesh. Needless to say the acutest need of the Ganges water is felt during the lean period from October onwards, for irrigation purposes.

Under the circumstances we have to do something on our own to achieve at least a partial solution of the problem on an emergency basis. We seem to have acted not with enough prudence so far by creating something of an impression that the flow from the Ganges would continue and improve, and that, therefore, no local or national or individual initiative would be necessary. Had the administration been as circumspect and pragmatic as not to do so and acted accordingly something could have been evolved to solve at least part of the problem.

This being so there is an element of suddenness with which the problem faces us, confounded by our unpreparedness both mentally and materially to face and tackle it. Bangladesh is poor, small and handicapped in many ways. The only way Bangladesh can face such a

massive and crucial problem is to fall back on its own resources on a basis of optimal utilization of them. Unilateral decision by India over the Ganges water sharing and the continuing heavy withdrawals from the Ganges at the upper reaches the hope of Bangladesh receiving much of the water remains slim—even under an agreement. And to make things worse for us there seems to be also the perceptible absence of the necessary will to solve the problem on a long term basis. The advantage of a big, powerful neighbour taking unilateral decisions without regard to the difficulties of a relatively small helpless neighbour is always great.

Hence the compulsive need of our going it alone—and almost wholly on our own, while waiting hopefully for a thaw in the state-mate through future negotiations if or when they take place. We have at least a land of God's plenty—of water seasonally received, only to wash and waste away into the sea. Could we go for reservoir-projects aimed at conservation of this annual rain water we might not be trying to do something very fantastic. We consider the idea and project feasible. Besides, we have already a network of canals dug in recent years; we have also 'howar' areas. Both these basins of conservation have however been heavily silted over the years; the canals being recent constructions and the mud taking quite a few years to settle and solidify. The howars are almost on the point of extinction, most of them levelling

up with the banks—for years of lack of digging or reexcavation. Similarly we have the traditional complex of rural water ways capable of holding sufficient water. All these can be made a more adequate supplement to a projected water-reservoir scheme drawn up by our Water-Development experts preferably in consultation with foreign specialists. We have to go seriously for such indigenous, self-reliance ways of survival. The question from the agricultural development point, or generally from that of the national economy is of vital importance to us.

It is unfortunate though the Ganges is an international river. And Bangladesh's case for an equitable share of its water is supported by international law and ethics. But somehow none of these considerations seem to weigh much with India in this matter. On the contrary Bangladesh's anxiety for a settlement of the dispute has been not only for its own economic reasons but also for the sake of sustained good neighbourly relations. Let us hope that the road to solution still remains open with expectations of initiatives being revived by India to walk together up to it.

BKSAL LEADER ADVOCATES CARETAKER GOVERNMENT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 28 Mar 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] Mr Abdur Razzak General Secretary of Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awam League (BKSAL) has said on Monday that he was ready to participate in the dialogue if a congenial atmosphere was created by releasing all political students and freedom fighters including Biswajit Nandi.

After the congenial atmosphere is created we shall go to the talks to demand formation of a caretaker Government to conduct independently the elections for a sovereign Parliament.

Addressing a discussion meeting arranged at the Central Shahid Minar in the evening to mark the Independence Day Mr Abdur Razzak also called for restoration of the proper position to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and four basic principles of state. He suggested that if there is any doubt then the government should hold a referendum on these questions.

Mr Razzak bitterly criticised some Awami Leaguers who he said at the instigation killed Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Some of them are hiding under different parts he said that people would unmask them.

The meeting presided over by Mr Abdul Momin Talukder was addressed, among others, by Col (Rtd) Shawkat Ali, Mr S M Yusuf, Prof Kabir Choudhury and Dr Mizanul Huq. Earlier, the party leaders came at the head of big procession which paraded different thoroughfares of the metropolis after starting from the Baitul Mukarram square.

CSO: 4600/1744

FINANCE MINISTER NOTES LOSSES CAUSED BY RECESSION

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 29 Mar 84 p 1

[Text] Mr M Syeduzzaman, Principal Finance Secretary and Adviser, Ministry of Finance, on Wednesday said that due to international recession Bangladesh lost income through loss in terms of trade to the extent of one billion dollar between 1980-81 and 1981-82.

Mr Syeduzzaman said exports of Bangladesh which reached 725 million dollar in 1979-80, continued to decline even in nominal terms for the next three years. Only in 1983-84, exports in nominal terms would exceed what was already reached in 1979-80, he said.

As regards imports, the Principal Finance Secretary said in real terms the level achieved in 1979-80 would not be reached even in 1983-84.

Mr Syeduzzaman was inaugurating a month-long foreign exchange trading course for Bangladesh bankers at Hotel Sheraton. Organised and sponsored by Grindlays Bank, the inaugural function was also addressed by Mr Ashok Dayan, Regional Director, South Asia and Mr Alan Cooper, General Manager of Grindlays Bank, Dhaka.

Mr Syeduzzaman said that considering the present imbalance between exports and imports of Bangladesh and its heavy reliance on foreign aid, it was essential to take allout measures to increase exports. Government policy, he said, needed to be determined in a manner which promotes diversion of resources to the external sector. The current exchange rate policy, interest rate policy and fiscal policy were by and large directed towards achieving this objective, he said.

The Principal Finance Secretary said that by systematically training their officers, commercial banks could significantly help push the promotion of exports.

Mr Syeduzzaman said in recent months the foreign exchange reserves of the country reached all-time high--nearly 500 million dollar. This happened due to fortuitous combination of circumstances. The accumulation of reserves was temporary and with imports picking up the foreign exchange reserves would come down to much lower levels in the next few months he said.

The Principal Finance Secretary said that the present Government had a record of exemplary financial discipline. Avoidance of unproductive expenditure, timely repayment of bank loan, reduction of subsidies and correct pricing of goods and services were the cornerstone of financial discipline and equity, he stressed. Only such policy could help strengthen the productive base of the economy and to maintain stable interest and exchange rate policies with beneficial effects all around, he said.

Mr Zaman said dealing in foreign exchange was an extremely important area as total quantum of the country's foreign trade equalled almost a quarter of GDP about 6 per cent as exports and about 19 per cent as imports. It is, therefore, absolutely essential that we make efforts to get the best value out of our foreign trade, transactions and it was essential for our banking system to have adequate number of trained people. He said that he was happy that the Grindlays Bank was taking lead to train people in this area.

Mr Ashok Dayal said that the Grindlays Bank has been operating in Bangladesh since 1905 and it was now the biggest foreign bank in the country. He said that the Grindlays Bank contributed significantly in immediate post-independence periods of Bangladesh towards the reconstruction of the war-ravaged economy.

A total of 18 bankers from different banks including two from the Grindlays Bank are taking part in the course.

CSO: 4600/1745

REPORTAGE ON APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRIME MINISTER

Swearing In, Speeches, Reaction

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 Mar 84 pp 1, 16

[Text] Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan who was sworn in as Prime Minister on Friday evening said at the oath-taking ceremony at Bangabhaban "I am a sick, old man and have nothing to gain and give".

President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad administered the oath of office and told the ceremony that the elderly politician Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan had severed all his political links to join him in the Government. He, however, said that the Prime Minister had not joined his party.

In his brief speech at the oath-taking ceremony, President Ershad said that the country was facing a political crisis and his Government had been trying to survive the present crisis. He said that he went to Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan to pursue him to join his government and help him in the process of peaceful transfer of power to the elected government. "We should all strive to avoid bloodshed and ensure peaceful democratic transition" the President stressed.

President Ershad addressed his Prime Minister as 'sir' and requested him to speak a few words at the ceremony.

The new Prime Minister leaning heavily on his walking stick said. "Whatever the President has said is my words". He reiterated his commitment to the President by saying that he would help the process of transfer of power to an elected government. "In my old age I am here to deliver my last to the nation by ensuring peaceful transfer of power" he wished.

Talking to newsmen in an impromptu Press Conference at the Zia Hall at Bangabhaban immediately after the oath-taking ceremony, Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan said that he would not join the Janadal.

Asked how he had joined the military government of General Ershad which he termed the "killer of democracy" only a couple of days back the new Prime Minister replied "I said so then and now I say come let us save democracy".

The Prime Minister who has been given the portfolio of Political and Parliamentary Affairs, said that he would start his work for the political dialogue between the President and the Opposition. He expressed his optimism over the dialogue.

Before newsmen could ask him more questions the Prime Minister was rescued by Mr. A. R. Yusuf Special Assistant to the President who took Mr. Khan by his arms saying that the President was looking for him. However instead of taking him to the President the Prime Minister was escorted by Mr. Yusuf to the official car.

The oath-taking ceremony was late by 40 minutes and before the swearing-in Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan had a brief meeting with the President. The ceremony was attended by DCMLA Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmood, members of the Cabinet and high ranking military and civil officials. Prominent among the politicians present at the ceremony were Mr. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Mr. Reazuddin Ahmed Chairman and Secretary General of Janadal Mr. Azizul Huq (Nanna Mia) Mr. Abul Kalam General Secretary and Mr. Faruque of the Jatiya League and other central leaders of the component organisations of the 13-party Jatiya Jote led by Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan.

Appointment Hailed

Different political and socio-cultural organisations in separate statements congratulated elderly leader Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan on his becoming the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. In their statements the leaders of different organisations hoped that the elderly leader would play a vital role in establishing democracy in the country.

The joint conveners of the city committee of the Janadal in a statement hoped that the appointment of Ataur Rahman Khan as Prime Minister would enhance the process of transition to democracy of General Ershad. They thanked President Ershad for his wise decision.

The joint conveners who thanked President Ershad for appointing Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan as Prime Minister are Mr. Khalequzzaman Chowdhury, Aminur Rahman Jinna, Mohammad Yunus, Helal Ahmed Helal, Palash Anwar Mati, Azizul Haque Bhuiya, Saleh Ahmed, Farid Ahmed, Rexaul Karim Chowdhury and Syed Abu Hossain Babla.

Mr. A. S. M. Solaiman President of Krishak Sramik Party said the appointment of Ataur Rahman as Prime Minister would be helpful in establishing democracy in the country. Mr. Solaiman was addressing the workers' meeting of Krishak Sramik Jubo Front on Friday morning.

Mr. Giasuddin Khurram, joint convener of the Natun Bangla Seccha Sebi Samaj in a statement hoped that the hopes and aspirations of the nation would be fulfilled by his (Ataur Rahman Khan) taking the charge of Prime Ministership.

Mr. Fazlur Rahman Khan and Zafarullah President and Joint Secretary respectively of the Crescent Society hailed the appointment of Ataur Rahman Khan as Prime Minister.

They hoped that Mr. Khan would play a vital role in saving the independence and sovereignty of the country.

Mr. Gazi Jahangir, General Secretary of the Jatiya Banks Employees Federation Syed Daud Ali Secretary Rampal Upazila (Khulna) Samity and Mr. Abdulla-al-Naser, Secretary-General of the Bangladesh Jatiya Jana Sakti thanked President Ershad for appointing Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan as Prime Minister.

They termed this decision of President Ershad pragmatic, timely and wise.

Biographical Information

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 2 Apr 84 p 3

[Text] Born in 1905 at Balia in Dhamrai Upazila of Dhaka district, Mr. Khan was all through an outstanding student. He graduated in 1930 and obtained his law degree in 1936 from the Dhaka University.

Mr. Khan joined legal profession in 1937. He joined judicial service as a Munsif in 1942 and left the post in 1944 to resume his legal profession.

He was elected President of Dhaka District Bar Association in 1960, President of the High Court Bar Association in 1969-70, and Member, Bar Council 1970-72.

His political career began in 1934 when he was elected General Secretary of Dhaka District Krishak Proja Party. He joined Muslim League in 1944 and was elected Vice-President on Dhaka District Muslim League in the same year. In 1949 he presided over the convention where Awanu Muslim League was formed with Mauana Abdul Hamin Khan Bhasnani as President. He was made Senior Vice-President of the party. He presided over the Grand National Convention in Dhaka as a protest to the report of the Basic Principles Committee and formulation of the alternative set of basic principles for the Constitution. He formed National Democratic League with Mr. Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy as its leader in 1962. He was one of the signatories of a statement known as 'Nine Leaders Statement' as a protest to the report of the Basic Principles Committee and formulation of the alternative set of basic principles for the Constitution. He formed National Democratic League with Mr. Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy as its leader in 1962. He was one of the signatories of a statement known as 'Nine Leaders Statement' as a protest against the Martial Law of Ayub Khan.

Mr. Khan was elected Member of East Pakistan Legislative Assembly in 1954 as a nominee of the United Front and became Deputy Leader of the opposition. He was elected a Member of the Pakistan National Assembly in 1935 and became the Deputy Leader of the opposition.

He became Chief Minister of East Pakistan in 1956.

Mr. Khan was elected Secretary, Legal Defence Committee during communal disturbances in 1946 and President of the East Bengal Peace Committee in 1952. He was elected President, East Bengal Civil Liberties League.

Mr. Khan was Chairman of the Bangladesh Press Commission.

Mr. Khan is a widely travelled man. He visited Peking in 1952 as a Member of Pakistan delegation to the Peace Conference and again in 1982 as a Member of Bangladesh Friendship delegation. He also visited UK and Switzerland in 1954 and Soviet Union in 1970. He led a delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference in Geneva in 1974 and visited UK in 1975 as a Member of Inter-Parliamentary delegation. He visited Japan in 1981 and Iraq in 1983 as a member of official delegation.

Mr. Khan performed Hajj in 1977.

He is the author of Ojaratir Dui Bachhar (Two Years of Ministership) and 'Sairachaher Dash Bachhar' (Ten Years of Autocracy).

Mr. Khan is married and has three sons and two daughters.

He was appointed Prime Minister in the council of Ministers on 30 March 1984.

CSO: 4600/1750

REPORT ON DRAFT ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 24 Mar 84 pp 1, 8

[Article by Hassan Abul Quashem]

[Text] The government has worked out draft outline of the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for the next financial year envisaging Taka 3600 crore (36 billion) for the total outlay.

Out of this total expenditure the feasible level of domestic resources generation has been estimated at only a slightly over 17 per cent leaving over 82 per cent of the development programme on the external resources.

The domestic financing has been pegged at Tk. 6.31 billion while the foreign aid at 29.69 billion taka. The external resources will comprise project aid and counterpart fund generation from food and commodity aid.

Despite the substantial increase in the size of the ADP, the public sector development outlay in real terms will increase by only 2 per cent. In terms of current prices however, it will increase 10.9 per cent over the revised programme of Taka 32.47 billion in 1983-48.

The sales proceeds of foodgrains under United States PL 480, title II & III will provide about 170 crore take instead of Tk.177 crore estimated for this year. The counterpart fund from commodity aid has been projected at Tk. 1193 crore for the next financial year. As against 950 crore taka earmarked for this year, about 1606 crore taka will come as project aid in the next fiscal year.

Proposals for domestic resources generation measures contain substantial expansion of the tax base. Estimate of earning from tax and non-tax revenue alike may get a boost in the budgetary proposals in June next.

The tax revenue is now expected to increase by 21 per cent totalling to over Tk. 29 billion as against Tk. 24 billion estimated for the current year. The foreign trade sector will have to shoulder the maximum additional tax burden in the next year. The import trade may receive incremental tax revenue in the form of customs duty and sales tax. Compared with total additional resources the increase is expected to be 23 per cent. Excise duty might also

increase by 16 per cent which will mainly come from expanded production of gas, tobacco products, domestically processed petroleum oil and lubricants, sugar, cement and jute goods.

The increase in the excise duty is based on the assumption of increased industrial production both in public and private sectors given the widened scopes created by the government.

The income tax collections is also expected to increase by 10.3 per cent while the non-tax revenue will increase by 6.4 per cent to Tk. 5.83 billion from the present level of 5.48 billion taka.

CSO: 4600/1741

HIGHER FOREIGN AID DISBURSEMENTS SOUGHT

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 31 Mar 84 pp 1, 8

[Article by Hossain Khasru]

[Text] The external aid disbursements for the forthcoming fiscal year 1985 have been projected at 1.63 billion US dollar. This amount will be higher than the anticipated level of disbursements at 1.4 billion US dollar for the current fiscal 1984.

The actual disbursements during the first eight months of the current fiscal had however fallen short of expectations, making it now quite uncertain as to whether the overall disbursement target for the year would at all be realised.

Nonetheless, the aid memorandum, approved by the council of ministers on March 16 last for the coming consortium meeting in Paris on April 19 and 11 next, projects a higher volume of disbursements in 1984-85 than what was targeted for the current year, 1983-84. And the project is higher on all counts.

Thus, food aid, despite the recent claims of the government about an expected increase of domestic food production from 149 lakh tons in 1982-83 to 159 lakh tons in 1983-84, has been projected at 300 million US dollars for fiscal 1985 against 230 million dollars for fiscal 1984.

Commodity aid disbursements, the memorandum expects, will go up from 460 million dollars in 1983-94 to 600 million dollars in 1984-85. Project aid where the pipeline is already comfortably built at over 3.7 billion dollar due to slow pace in project aid utilisation because of poor project management and operational constraints in overall development administration, is projected at 730 million dollar for fiscal 1985 against 700 dollar for fiscal 1984.

Bangladesh will seek at the forthcoming consortium meeting in Paris 2.5 billion dollars of fresh aid commitments for fiscal 1985. At the last year's Paris meeting, the donors pledged 1.7 billion dollars of assistance for the country for fiscal 1984. Bangladesh sought donors' commitments at the level of over two billion dollars at that meeting.

The actual level of commitments at the forthcoming aid club meeting will meanwhile have the most vital bearing upon the government's budgetary exercise, fiscal policies and development programming for the next fiscal year, 1984-85.

The tentative projection made in the aid memorandum on the basis of an expected higher level of aid commitments and disbursements, envisages the country's GDP (gross domestic product) growth rate at 5.5 percent for 1984-85 with the major sectoral growth pattern having been projected as follows: food production--4.4 percent, industries--8 percent, electricity--15 percent, gas--34.4 percent and trade and other sectors--5.6 percent.

The proposals on the government budgetary front for fiscal 1985 include (a) the growth in tax revenue receipts of the government by about 21 percent to Tk 29.43 billion, (b) the increase in revenue (current non-productive) expenditure of the government by 12.2 percent to Tk 27.5 billion and (c) mobilisation of Tk 7.76 billion as surpluses in the overall revenue budget.

The memorandum projects the export earnings of the country for the coming financial year at 830 million US dollar and the import expenditures at 2.75 billion US dollar.

Meanwhile, the annual development programme (ADP) for fiscal 1985 has been proposed to be sized at Tk. 36 billion at current prices. The domestic resources are projected to provide only 17.5 percent of the proposed size of the ADP and the external assistance inclusive of sale proceeds of commodities and foodgrains financed under commodity and food assistance will provide the rest 82.5 percent of the ADP funds.

CSO: 4600/1751

FOREIGN VESSELS DEplete RESOURCES IN EEZ

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 5 Apr 84 pp 1, 8

[Article by Khondker Manirul Alam]

[Text] Over fishing of marine shrimp resources by disproportionately large number of trawlers in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Bangladesh has created a grave situation which might result in extinction of shrimp resources in near future.

At present a total of 56 trawlers including five owned by public sector BFDC are engaged in fishing in the EEZ. The Government has recently allowed another 60 trawlers of foreign origin on pay-as-you earn basis in collaboration with local private entrepreneurs.

Prof. P. C. George and Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the UN adviser in Bangladesh, in a study had pointed out that the potential yield of shrimp in the EEZ is approximately around 2,500 tons per year. To exploit this resources, a maximum number of 25 trawlers is required to operate in breakeven position. Mr. J. W. Penn, an FAO expert who conducted a survey on marine resources in 1981, also suggested that not more than 23 trawlers should be allowed for shrimp fishing in the country.

Foreign Trawlers

Fishing in the EEZ of the country by foreign trawlers has raised controversy over the last few years. In view of widespread allegations that the foreign trawlers were smuggling huge quantity of fish and violating fishing norms by using thick nets and destroying fish beds, the Bangladesh-Thai Joint Venture projects to catch fish in the Bay was terminated in 1980. However, the same Thai trawlers had come back to the EEZ of Bangladesh last year under the disguise of hire-purchase basis with local private entrepreneurs. This arrangement was also terminated in December last year in the face of strong opposition by the Bangladeshi trawler owners. The same Thai trawlers, numbering about 60, have once again come back to the Bay showing their registration in Singapore on pay-as-you earn basis in collaboration with local private sector entrepreneurs.

Sources said that due to the excessive number of trawlers, the average per day catch of shrimp in the EEZ is declining steadily. The average per day

catch of shrimp in the EEZ is declining steadily. The average per day catch per trawler was 450-500 kilograms in 1979-80 which came down to 250-300 kilograms in 1980-81. The catch rate further declined in 1982-83 and the present average catch is below 100 kilograms.

The Government had constituted a committee for 'review of progress of the trawler-based deep sea fishing units' which in its report of August 1982 said that 300 kilogram/day catch was not economic in view of exorbitant cost of fuel. The committee had assessed the economic catch at the rate @ 400-500 kilogram/day.

Trawlers Business

Meanwhile, local entrepreneurs, who have invested in the trawler business with loans from banks, are now facing a difficult situation. With the dwindling rate of catch, they are now not in a position to send their trawlers to the Bay for regular fishing. Their bank interest are accumulating and they are even unable to pay salaries to the crew of the trawlers, sources claimed.

There are allegations that the foreign trawlers are denuding the living resources of the Bay by trapping the juvenile shrimps. They have been using net mesh much below international standard, it is alleged.

Fishing Nations

It may be pointed out here that a number of fishing nations have in recent times witnessed the menacing consequences of over fishing. The territorial waters of Thailand and Australia have already become shrimplless, shrimp resources of west coast of Indian territorial waters have been fully exhausted while it is facing extinction in Denmark and Sind of Pakistan. Indonesia banned fishing by about 1,000 trawlers from 1982 while Norway scrapped 124 vessels from its fleet.

Experts said time has come to give a serious thought over fishing in the EEZ of the country in order to preserve marine resources. They are of the opinion that operation of foreign trawlers in the EEZ must be stopped once for all.

CSO: 4600/1758

CONCERN SHOWN OVER 'NEW NATION' FAILURE TO PUBLISH

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 31 Mar 84 p 3

[Text]

An emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) held on Friday expressed deep concern over the situation arising out of non-publication of the daily New Nation due to mismanagement of the authorities of the daily, reports BSS.

The meeting observed with concern that the differences among the owners of the daily and the resignation by all the members of the Board of Directors of the company created administrative and economic crisis and deadlock in the organisation.

Presided over by DUJ President Mr. Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury the meeting in a resolution demanded immediate end to the administrative stalemate in the organisation for smooth publication of the daily.

In another resolution the meeting decried the police harassment on Mr. Swapan Sarker staff photographer of the daily Banglar Bani while he was on duty to cover the procession of the striking rickshawpullers near Ratkhola on Thursday afternoon. The meeting also condemned the snatching away of the flash gun of Mr. Swapan Sarker by the members of the law-enforcing agencies. It demanded immediate return of the flash gun by the police authorities.

In a resolution the meeting condemned the killing of three persons on Thursday by police firing and under the wheels of

police truck that ran over a procession of rickshawpullers. The incident reminded the nation of a similar history on February 28 when two University students were killed under the wheels of a police truck.

CSO: 4600/1750

BEGUM ZIA, RAHMAN SPEAK AT BNP MASS RALLY

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 2 Apr 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] The seven-party alliance leader Begum Khaleda Zia on Sunday declared that the alliance was prepared to sit with the government to discuss political issues provided it fulfilled the pre-conditions set by the alliance and accepted the five-point demands as the basis of talks. She said that dialogue was a part of the movement.

However, she told a massive rally at the Baitul Mukarran Square that the alliance would continue its movement for restoration of democracy on the basis of the five-point demands if the dialogue failed to produce meaningful results.

Delivering her twenty minute speech the BNP(S) chairman accused the government of not keeping its words and asked it to show its sincerity by holding elections on May 27 and transferring power back to the elected representatives of the people.

Begum Khaleda Zia who presided over the meeting urged the government to accept the five-point demands to consolidate the independence and sovereignty and appealed to the people to strengthen their unity to carry out the movement to realise the five points.

Referring to what she called a submissive foreign policy pursued by the government Begum Khaleda Zia said that due to this policy the sharing of the Ganges water issue was yet to be settled. She said that people wanted to know why the government was maintaining silence on the questions of bar bed wire fencing, South Talpatty and Angorpota issues.

As Begum Khaleda Zia arrived at the venue she was greeted by a cheering crowd. She was presented with a garland by an elephant at the command of its mahut.

The meeting which began shortly after her arrival at 4-24 p. m. and concluded at 6-28 p.m. was addressed among others by former Prime Minister and senior vice-chairman of BNP Shah Azizur Rahman, former Speaker Mirza Golam Hafiz, Captain (Rtd) Abdul Halim Choudhury, Mr. Obaidur Rahman, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Chairman UPP(Z), Mr. Sirajul Hossain Khan, Acting Chriaman, Ganatantrik Party, Mr. Tipu Biswas, Secretary, Biplobi Communist League, Mr. Abdur Rauf Choduhury, President, Democratic League (Rauf) and Mr. Ali Ashraf, a leader of NPA (Zafar). Mr. Anwar Zahid, a leader of the Ganatantrik Party read out the declaration of the meeting.

In a declaration the meeting noted that time was still there for the government to immediately transfer power to the elected representatives of the people in a peaceful manner. For this the alliance had stated a number of times that it was not in principle opposed to the dialogue and spelled it out in clear terms that there should be a congenial atmosphere to make the dialogue meaningful. It further said that it would participate in the talks if the government fulfilled the three pre-conditions and accepted five-point demands as the basis for the talks. The people would never accept any delaying tactics or machinations regarding the five points and would continue the movement if government failed to meet them," it declared.

Begum Zia noted that although President Ershad took over power toppling the BNP government two years ago on charges of corruption yet he had inducted some of the former BNP Ministers and leaders into his council of ministers and his newly-floated party "Janadal". This had proved beyond any shadow of doubt that the present government had dislodged the BNP government only for capturing power.

She said that she had come to politics shedding her grief at the loss of her husband to serve the people "who are now being subjected to various harassments. She was in politics to realise the dreams of Shahid Zia who had taken part in the War of Liberation for the establishment of sovereign Bangladesh, she added. She said, "I have turned my grief into strength."

She sounded a note of warning against using the country's Armed Forces to meet the personal ends of any individual and thus make them controversial. The Armed Forces were part and parcel of the people. They stood by the people when the sovereignty of Bangladesh was in jeopardy on November 7, 1975. The Armed Forces had saved the nation rescued Shahid Zia from confinement and returned to the barrack after accomplishing their task, she said.

Begum Khaleda Zia was addressing her first public meeting in the city after she came into politics last year. Earlier on November 28, 1983 she addressed a brief meeting after clashes between demonstrators and police.

Explaining the reasons for her entry into national politics Begum Khaleda Zia said that "Shahid Zia's colleagues were running the country in a proper manner following the democratic path charted by him. "But they were dislodged from power, attempted were made to dismantle his programmes and peoples were subjected to repression I could not sit at home, she said.

She said, "Inshallah I shall remain with you always".

Referring to the War of Independence in which late President Zia along with people and the Armed Forces took part Begum Khaleda Zia said that the role of Armed Forces would always be remembered because of their honourable part.

Referring to what she said people's opposition to the present government Begum Khaleda Zia said that it should go back to its place by giving the elections.

Begum Khaleda Zia said that dialogue with the government did not amount to "compromise" since it was a part of the struggle for the realisation of the 5-point demands.

She made it clear that the 7-party alliance wanted solution to all problems through discussions. She asked the government to accept the 5-point demands of the people and demonstrate its sincerity to establish democracy in the country. She warned that the people of Bangladesh would realise their demands through movement if they did not get them through negotiations.

The BNP Chairman pointed out that the people did not want the continuation of Martial Law any more, in the country. What they wanted was the installation of people's government, she said and asked the government to rise to the expectation of the people and also to its own promise by holding election on May 27.

Listing the failures of the present government, she said that corruption had increased manifold, law and order situation had deteriorated and prices of essential had gone beyond the purchasing power of the people during the two years of President Ershad's rule.

Shah Azizur Rahman

Shah Azizur Rahman declared that there can be no talks between the seven-party alliance, Jamaat-e-Islami and Khelafat Andolan etc. on the one side and the government on the other. He said that he would be the last person to sit in any talks with the government where Prime Minister Mr Ataur Rahman Khan would participate.

Criticising Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan, Shah Azizur Rahman said that he earned a bad name for the politicians when he joined the government barely 12 hours after he issued statements castigating the government.

Calling for an honourable dialogue the BNP leader said that he was not opposed to it but observed that congenial atmosphere for the dialogue was yet to be created. He called for restoration within 24 hours of the Articles 11 to 27 of the suspended Constitution guaranteeing fundamental rights, restoration of the independence of judiciary, re-establishment of the Supreme Judicial Council, release of all political prisoners, students, workers and youths, withdrawal of cases and abolition of Martial Law Courts and release of all students, workers and youth leaders convicted by them. In this connection he referred to the names of student leaders Messrs Fazle Hossain Badsha, Vice-President of Rajshahi University Central Students Union, Mukhlesur Rahman, Delwar Hossain Dila, Bank Employees leader Jamaluddin, Rezaul Karim and Jubo Dal leader Kazi Abu Imran.

Referring to the recent statement by President Ershad at the luncheon meeting with Overseas Correspondents Association of Bangladesh, Shah Azizur Rahman said that people never wanted the taking over of power by present government. He also compared the economic situation during the BNP government with the existing one. He said that the prices of US dollar was Taka 16 during BNP government and now it stood to Taka 27 which spoke about the state of economy, he added.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed

Kazi Zafar Ahmed said that if the government failed to accept the five-point demands the seven-party alliance would go for an enlarged movement incorporating the demands of the workers and peasants with the present ones. He said that the alliance would, if necessary, be broadened with a national convention of all democratic forces for taking up a greater programme for movement.

Professor Badruddoza Choudhury should that any one opposing the movement for democracy would have no place in Bangladesh.

Mirza Golam Hafiz

Mirza Golam Hafiz in his speech said that he was still the Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad and asked the government to release the parliament house.

He asked the government to abolish the posts of Zonal and Sub-zonal Martial Law Administrators and wind up Martial Law courts before holding the national elections.

Mr. Hafiz called upon the policemen to cooperate with the people and serve them.

Capt Halim Choudhury

Captain (Retd) Abdul Halim Choudhury said that it was ridiculous to give the title of 'Ranabir' on Gen Ershad who neither took part in the war of Independence and nor did anything for the freedom fighters.

He called upon Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan to concede the five-point demands of the Opposition since he (Mr. Ata) himself was a signatory to the demands.

Obaidur Rahman

Mr. K. M. Obaidur Rahman said that President Ershad took over power by overthrowing an elected government. He narrated the plight of the BNP leaders after imposition of Martial Law and thanked students for launching a massive movement against the present government.

Sirajul Hossain Khan

Mr. Sirajul Hossain Khan said that the present government was not capable of improving the lot of the people. It had failed to solve issues like the sharing of Ganges waters and vacating occupation on South Talpatty while high inflation had made the lives of the people miserable, he said. He demanded a white paper over the existing relationship between Bangladesh and India.

Mr. Mustafa Jamal Haider said that the seven-party combine was not opposed to dialogue since it believed in the peaceful solution of all political problems but conducive atmosphere should be created. He requested the government not to force them to take recourse to movement.

Tipu Biswas

Mr Tipu Biswas rejected holding of any polls under Martial Law and called for the establishment of an interim government for holding parliamentary elections. He warned that the people would not accept replacement of President Ershad by another General to perpetuate Martial Law. He said that his party was opposed to dialogue with the government.

Raul Chowdhury

Mr Abdur Rauf Chowdhury said that although open politics had been allowed, people were yet to get back their fundamental rights.

CSO: 4600/1752

BANGLADESH

JAMAT-E-ISLAMI DEMANDS CARETAKER GOVERNMENT

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Apr 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] Jamaat-e-Islami in a resolution adopted at a public meeting held at Baitul Mukarram square on Monday accused President H. M. Ershad of pushing the nation into a serious political crisis by over throwing a legally-elected government. It also demanded the formation of a non-political caretaker government.

Jamaat-e-Islami said that the people of the country had never for a moment endorsed the Martial Law in the country.

The party said the whole nation has launched a movement to end the Martial Law. It felt that the Government was forced to withdraw restriction on open politics and postpone the upazila elections.

Jamaat-e-Islami in another resolution said General Ershad by assuming the presidency has violated the commitment made to the nation. He also wants to perpetuate power, the solution said.

The party demanded immediate withdrawal of the amendment made in the Constitution saying the CMLA has no authority to amend it which is the exclusive prerogative of the Parliament.

The party called for handing over power to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court with the final objective of returning it to the elected representatives. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court should be requested to form a non-political caretaker Government for holding a free and fair election, the resolution added.

Repression Condemned

Jamaat-e-Islami condemned the repressive measures undertaken by the Government to stifle the movement of the people. The party demanded the release of all political prisoners immediately.

Mr. Abbas Ali Khan, the Acting Amir of the party said that ruling in Bangladesh was not a zamindari of any individual. The country should be run by a Government elected by the people, he stressed.

He said that President Ershad by overthrowing an elected Government did not allow democracy to flourish in Bangladesh. The Martial Law can never do any good to the people, he felt.

President Ershad combines in himself all the posts of the Chief of Army Staff, the CMLA and the President and he is trying to install a party of his choice in power, he said adding the people will never tolerate this. The acting Amir of Jamaat said free fair election is not possible under this Government. He said President Ershad by unilaterally amending the Constitution has vitiated the atmosphere for a meaningful dialogue. Mr. Abbas Ali Khan said unless demands of the Opposition political parties are met the political dialogue will turn into a mere farce.

Islamic Rule Sought

BSS adds:--Maulana Shamsur Rahman, the Vice-President of the Jamat expressed his firm conviction that only the establishment of Islamic rule in the country could save the nation from misrule and disasters and added, introduction of Islamic rule could be possible after the restoration of democracy.

He said that the Jamat would launch a movement in cooperation with the other forces fighting for democracy.

He criticised the Government for its failure to recover Talpatti island and to solve the Farakka issue with India.

Maulana A. K. M. Yusuf said that the Jamat was not against the country's Armed Forces but against the Martial Law.

The Jamat Secretary-General said that the supreme responsibility of the Armed Forces was to protect the territorial sovereignty of the country and none should use them for serving personal gains.

He alleged that the Government instead of creating a favourable situation for holding the dialogue was arresting Jamat workers. He said the proposed dialogue could be held only after handing over power to a caretaker government.

The meeting was presided over by the city Amir Mr. Ali Ahsan Mohammad Majumder and addressed among others by Mr. Matiur Rahman Nizami the Assistant Secretary-General, Messrs Abdul Khaleque, Abdul Kader Mollah, Qumaruzzaman Nazrul Islam and Mohammad Nurul Haque.

CSO: 4600/1754

PROTESTS TO INDIA OVER BORDER ACTIVITIES

Protest Reported 3 Apr

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] Bangladesh has lodged a strong protest with the Government of India for flagrant violation of the Indo-Bangladesh border guideline by the Indian side in Bhurungamari area under Kurigram district on Monday a Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS.

He said, Indian nationals came to put up some structures on the zero line of the border in Bhurungamari twice in the morning on Monday and started putting up structures for barbed-wire fencing.

The Acting Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on Monday and it was pointed out to him that this was in flagrant violation of the border guidelines between the two countries which prohibits defensive works of any nature within 150 yards on either side of the border.

The spokesman said, it was further pointed out that this was also in 'blatant disregard of the universally accepted international norm that no structure can be erected unilaterally on the zero line of any border.'

Giving details the spokesman said that at about 10 a. m. on Monday a few Indian nationals came to put up some structures on the zero line of the border near Boundary Pillar No. 1001 in Buhrungamari area under Kurigram district.

An hour later an Indian party comprising two Engineers, two Surveyors and seven workers escorted by BSF and police personnel came again near Pillar No. 1002 and started putting up structures for barbed wire fencing on the zero line of the border.

The Government of India was urged to refrain from erecting any such structure in the rest of friendly bilateral relations between the two countries the spokesman said.

5 Apr Protest Note

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Apr 84 pp 1, 12

[Text] Bangladesh again on Thursday strongly protested there deliberate provocative actions of India by putting up structures on the zero line of the border in Bhurungamai under Kurigram district in flagrant violations of the border guidelines in a "repeated and continuous manner," reports BSS.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Dhaka that the acting Indian High Commissioner was summoned to the Foreign Ministry Thursday and a note was handed over to him "strongly protesting these developments and deliberate provocative actions which endanger peace and tranquility in the border area responsibility for which lies entirely with the Indian side."

In its protest note, Bangladesh drew the attention of India to Bangladesh's categorical rejection of the construction of barbed wire fence to the flagrant violations of the border guidelines and to the blatant and total disregard of the universally accepted international norm that no structure is erected unilaterally on the zero line on any border.

The spokesman pointed out that the Government of India was urged to refrain from erecting such structure and dismantle those which had already been erected and issue immediate agencies to ensure peace and tranquility in the border area in the interest of the friendly relations between [text missing].

Giving details he said, at 10.45 a. m. on Thursday 22 Indian civilians escorted by 10 members of Indian Border Security Force came with five bags of cement and poured reinforced concrete on the zero line near Indo-Bangladesh border pillar number 1001 in Bhurungamari area of Kurigram district. With a view to erecting barbed wire fence on the zero line of the border they put up two six-foot high iron rods, he added.

The spokesman said, about 100 BSF personnel had taken position behind that structure on the Assam side of the border. "At the same time some Indian BSF troops have taken position in the vicinity on the West Bengal side of the border at Jhikaltali" he added.

CSO: 4600/1756

REPORT ON 15-PARTY ALLIANCE 3 APR MASS MEETING

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Apr 84 pp 1, 10

[Text] Sheikh Hasina, chief of the Bangladesh Awami League, declared in Dhaka on Tuesday that the 15-party alliance would not take part in the parliamentary elections under the Martial Law.

Announcing the decision of the alliance at a mammoth public meeting at Baitul Mukarram she said lifting of the Martial Law is necessary to ensure free and fair elections.

The 15-party alliance in a resolution adopted at the meeting said that only elections for a sovereign Parliament would be acceptable to the people. The alliance asserted that it would not accept the programme announced by the Government for holding presidential and parliamentary polls on the same day.

The alliance leaders felt that the Government was trying to manoeuvre its way for delaying the parliamentary elections in the name of a dialogue with the political parties. They accused the Government of creating obstacles for holding the dialogue by means of its continued repressive measures. The alliance will not go to the dialogue unless the detenus are released, death sentences on Mr. Golam Mustafa, a former MP, and Mr. Biswasjit Nandi commuted student leaders including Fazle Hossain Badsha of Rajshahi University and arrested workers of the Adamjee Jute Mills freed, the leaders of the alliance emphatically said amid clappings of the crowd.

In another resolution, the alliance demanded immediate restoration of the trade union rights for creating a congenial atmosphere for any meaningful political dialogue.

The meeting, presided over by Sheikh Hasina, was addressed by Mr. Abdur Razzak of Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League, Mrs. Sajeda Chowdhury of Awami League, Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed of National Awami Party (Muzaffar), Mr. Shahjahan Siraj of Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal (Siraj), Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish of Gano Azadi League, Mr. Rashed Khan Menon of Workers' Party, Mr. Nirmal Sen of Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal, Mr. Mohammad Farhad of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Mr. Pankaj Bhattacharjee of National Awami Party (Haroon), Sved Altaf Hossain of Ekota Party, Mr. Khalequzzaman Bhuivan of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Mr. A. F. M. Mahbubul Huq of BSD, Mr. Dilip Barua of

Bangladesher Shaymabadi Dal (M-L), Mr. Mohammad Toaha of Shamyabadi Dal, and Mr. Shah Alam of Mazdoor Party.

The speakers at the meeting alleged that the present Martial Law administration had assumed a political character after the induction of some members from Janadal into the Cabinet.

Ata'a Appointment Criticised

The alliance leaders were critical of the appointment of Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan as the Prime Minister and felt that this was a part of the game of the Martial Law administration to "confront the Opposition political leaders with political personalities" with the aim of discrediting the politicians and thus prolonging the Martial Law.

The meeting which started one hour behind the schedule continued for four and a half hours till 9 p. m. with three breaks for ten minutes each for prayers. The speakers representing the different component parties of the alliance made rather a lengthy exercise in repetitive verbiage at the meeting. The audience at one stage got restive and insisted on Sheikh Hasina addressing them without waiting for the turn of others to deliver their speeches:

There were repeated requests from the organisers of the meeting to maintain discipline and calm but the appeals went unheeded. The female audience had to quit the venue when the over-enthusiastic people occupied the place reserved for them.

Power Transfer Process Not Allowed

In her presidential speech, Sheikh Hasina said the root cause of the political crisis in the country lies in the repeated changes of the government through bullet and not through ballot since the killing of 'Bangobandhu' Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in August 1975. The normal process of power transfer on the basis of the verdict of the people has not been allowed to operate, she alleged.

She observed that economic situation in the country had worsened over the last eight years and the common people were deprived of all opportunities to reap the fruits of independence. She said vested interests have been trying to use the Armed Forces for fulfilling their purposes adding the Armed Forces have now been placed in such a situation that the people have started considering them as their 'opponents'.

The Awami League chief said that the 15-party alliance was not in any way against the Armed Forces. Rather the Armed Forces are the symbol of national sovereignty, she added.

She said the people's representatives in a sovereign Parliament are the sole authority to take decisions on all national issues and they will run the country in accordance with the wishes of the people.

Sheikh Hasina congratulated the people for their success in the democratic movement saying the postponement of the upazila polls and restoration of

open political activities symbolised their victory. She felt that the struggle should be continued for realisation of the five-point demands of the alliance.

Foreign Policy Submissive

She was critical of the pro-imperialist and submissive foreign policy of the Government. She said corruption has now spread over to all spheres of the national life.

Voice of People Can't Be Gagged

Mr. Abdur Razzak said that the people had given their clear verdict through the successful observance of hartal on different dates for lifting of the Martial Law through a united struggle he said adding the voice of the people cannot be gagged by the conspiracy of killing.

Muzaffar

Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed asked "If some convicted on the charge of corruption involving a huge amount could be released, why not the persons with inconsequential charges?". He wanted to know whether the Ershad Government was sincere about the power transfer.

Shahjahan Siraj

Mr. Shahjahan Siraj called upon the people to keep watch on the political leaders attending the dialogue so that they could not betray their cause. He said there will be a dialogue on one hand and a mass movement on the streets on the other. He also congratulated the students for their part in the democratic movement.

Toaha

Mr. Mohammad Toaha said that problems of the people could be solved in a sovereign Parliament. He said Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan has decided to place the photo of former President Khondakar Mushtaque in Bangobhavan.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury said that they would not go to the dialogue unless the decision to place the photo of Khondaker Mushtaque was changed.

Syed Altaf Hossain criticised the Government saying it has published a list of its achievements during its two-years rule but it has not given the list of the students, workers and people killed during that period. He was also critical of president Ershad's proposal for associating the Armed Forces in the affairs of the Government.

Menon

Mr. Rashed Khan Menon wanted to know how the dialogue would take place with Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan since the real power was lying with the military

Government. What is the guarantee that the military Government will honour the words of Mr. Khan after the dialogue he wondered.

Mr. Pankaj Bhattacharva said that the alliance was in favour of participating in the dialogue. He, however, said that the movement for restoration of the people's fundamental rights would continue at the same time.

CSO: 4600/1756

PRESS REPORTS SCHEDULED DIALOGUE NOT HELD

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Apr 84 pp 1, 10

[Text] The political dialogue schedule to be held between the Government and the seven-party alliance at 10 a. m. on Tuesday at Bangabhaban did not take place.

The leaders of the seven party alliance did not turn up due to, what an alliance leader said, the failure of the Government to release the political prisoners still in jail.

The Home Minister in consultation with the president assured the two leaders of the seven party alliance at Bangabhaban at midnight on Tuesday that action would be taken in appropriate cases and the seven-party alliance would meet for a dialogue very soon on a mutually agreed date and time.

Earlier, the seven-party alliance received the invitation to attend the dialogue.

The President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad, the Prime Minister Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan along with a number of Ministers waited till 11-35 p. m. to hold the dialogue with the seven-party alliance leaders. While the President left at 11-35 p. m. Dr. Badruddoza Choudhury and Kazi Jafar Ahmed arrived at Bangabhaban at 11-40 p. m.

Kazi Jafar Ahmed said that they had come to Bangabhaban as emissaries of the seven-party alliance. They were received at the gate by the Special Assistant to the President Mr. A. R. Yusuf, the Home Minister Major-General Mannan Siddiqui and were escorted to Mr. Yusuf's chamber. They stayed there for about an hour and came out with a prepared joint statement. Mr. A. R. Yusuf read out the following statement.

"The dialogue was scheduled at 10 p. m. between the Government and the seven-party alliance. Due to communication breakdown no message was received from the alliance and the dialogue could not be held, the President left at 11-35 p. m. Dr. Badruddoza Choudhury and Kazi Jafar Ahmed arrived at 11-45 p. m. and informed that earlier today (Tuesday) at 12-45 p. m. the alliance had submitted a list of convicted political prisoners. The Home Minister in consultation with the President assured that action in appropriate cases. The parties shall meet for a dialogue very soon on a mutually agreed date and time."

The newsmen were not allowed to ask any question. When Kazi Jafar was asked whether they consented to attend the dialogue he turned to Dr. Babduddoza Chowdhury to answer the question. He however said they came here as emissaries and would not answer any question.

CSO: 4600/1756

BRIEFS

JSD (GUHA-RAB) LEADERS--Mr. Chitta Ranjan Guha and Mr. A' S. M. Abdur Rab, President and General Secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Guha-Rab) in a joint statement on Friday opposed the demand for restoration of 1972 as well as the suspended Constitution. They stated that election to Parliament on the basis of neither the 1972 Constitution nor the suspended Constitution can help for composition of a Parliament representing all shades of opinion. They added that the Parliament on the basis of 1972 Constitution has a natural tendency of one-party rule and in 1975 this possibility was imposed on the nation as a shocking reality. The JSD (G-R) leaders further said that election to Parliament on the basis of suspended Constitution makes the Parliament a rubber stamp and the President becomes a despot. They stressed the need of chalking out a formula about the form and character of the future Constitution in consultation with the political parties, labour federations, peasant organizations, and other professional groups. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 24 Mar 83 p 1]

IDL STATES POSITION--The Islamic Democratic League (IDL) on Wednesday said that it will not join the dialogue with President Ershad to discuss political issues, reports ENA. The party in a letter signed by its Secretary General Maulana Abdus Subhan addressed to President Ershad expressed the view that mere discussions on political issues would not serve any good. The letter maintained that the party believed that the problems now facing the country could be solved only by adopting an Islamic Constitution. Pending the adoption of such a Constitution, the party said, power should be transferred to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and a committee constituted with experts and ulema should be assigned to the task of framing an Islamic Constitution based on the Quran and Sunah. After the framing of the Constitution it should be adopted by a referendum and elections should be held under that constitution, it said. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 29 Mar 84 pp 1, 8]

MESSAGE FROM SOVIETS--Presidium of USSR Supreme Soviet has sent a message of felicitations to President and CMLA Lt. General H. M. Ershad on the occasion of the Independence and National Day of the country, reports BSS. In the message the Presidium extended congratulations and best wishes of progress and well-being to the people of Bangladesh. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Mar 83 p 1]

MERGER WITH JATIYA--Nine political parties on Sunday dissolved their party entity and merged into Jatiya League led by Prime Minister Mr. Ataur Rahman Khan, according to a press release. The parties are Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Party (Nanna Mia), Bangladesh United Nationalist Party, People's Democratic Party, Social Democratic Party, Liberal Democratic Party, Jana Ganotantrik Dal Bangladesh Democratic Party, National Awanu Party (Shah) and Bangladesh Jana Shakti. The signatories to the press release were messrs Golam Rabbani, Advocate Habibul Huq Benu, M. A. Hannan, Mohammad Abdur Rob, Advocate A. K. M. Shamsul Huda, Advocate Ruhul Amin Khan, Advocate Sheikh Abdul Latif, Shafiul Islam Soudagar and Abdulla al-Naser on behalf of their respective parties. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 2 Apr 84 p 1]

NATIONAL AWAMI DEMANDS--Bangladesh National Awami Party (Muzaffar) on Saturday demanded immediate announcement of the date of parliament elections. According to a Press release on Sunday, the demand was made at the emergency meeting of national committee of the party held on Saturday night. Prof. Muzaffar Ahmed, President of the party, presided over the meeting. The meeting also demanded release of MAP leader Syed Abul Kalam and all other student, worker and political leaders, withdrawal of cases against the students of Rajshahi University with a view to making political atmosphere congenial for holding proposed dialogue, the Press release said. The meeting also decided to observe NAP Organisational Week from April 21 to April 27. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 2 Apr 84 p 8]

IDB LOAN--Jeddah, Apr. 2:--The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will lend Bangladesh US dlr 40 million to finance import of crude oil under two agreements signed here on Saturday reports IINA. The agreements were signed by the bank's president Dr. Ahmed Mohamed Ali and Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mohamed Mohsin. Since the beginning of the current hijra year of 1404 the bank has furnished Bangladesh with loans totalling US dlr 75 million. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Apr 84 p 12]

SHANTI BAHINI INFIGHTING--Chittagong, Apr. 3:--At least eight Shanti Bahini members were killed and two others injured in an armed clash between two rival Pritifactions of the outlawed Bahini at Anukasari forest area of Pansari upazila under Khagrassari district recently. According to an official source, the Priti Kumar Chakma faction of the Shanti Bahini which again split into two separate factions clashed among themselves, freely using automatic weapons. Six of the victims have been identified as Deb Joti Chakma Purna Kumar Chakma, Rabindra Chakma, K'afil Chakma, Ashok Kumar Chakma and Birak Bihari Chakma. With the fresh division there exist now three factions of the outlawed Shanti Bahini. The new Palash faction is headed by Trivangil Chakma alias Major Palash, the other two being those of Larma and Priti. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Apr 84 p 1]

FOREIGN CURRENCY REGULATIONS--The foreign currency regulations for Bangladeshi nationals as well as foreigners on visit to the country have been relaxed. Under the revised rules, persons ordinarily residing in Bangladesh will be allowed at the time of returning from abroad to bring in upto 750 million US dollar or equivalent without declaration to the customs. The previous limit for this category of passengers was 25 US dollar only. Foreigners as well as overseas Bangladesh national under the new rules will be allowed to bring in 1000 US dollar or equivalent without declaration. The previous limit for this

category of passengers was 150 US dollar or equivalent. A press release issued by the Bangladesh Bank on Wednesday in Dhaka said that the relaxation with regard to declaration of foreign currency to the customs at the point of entry was made for the convenience of visitors to Bangladesh and returning Bangladeshi nationals. The declaration requirement will continue to be in force if the amount brought in exceed the new ceilings. Bangladeshi wage earners working abroad should in their own interest declare whatever amount they bring in on the prescribed FMJ Form to avail of the benefits of wage earners scheme, the Press release adds. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Apr 84 pp 1, 12]

SIX-PARTY DEMANDS--Leaders of six political parties in a joint statement on Thursday demanded return of the armed forces to the barracks after handing over the power to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. They advised the present Government not to involve the armed forces in the state administration any more and save it from the people's wrath. In a statement the political leaders said that the people were suffering from a sense of desperation in the wake of large-scale corruption price spiral police atrocities and killing of students and rickshawdrivers under the wheels of police trucks. The country was facing a grave economic crisis and it was burdened with foreign debt they added. They observed that the present political vacuum was also responsible for such situation in the country. They stressed that all political and economic problems could be resolved only through framing an Islamic constitution. The signatories are:--Moulana Abdur Rahim Chairman of Bangladesh Islamic Democratic League Moulana Abdul Jabbar Badarpuri Acting President of Nezam-e-Islam (Badarpuri), Dr. Shahabuddin President of National Labour Party Sheikh Abdul Huq Acting President of Labour Party (Mostafa) Al-haj Capt (Retd) K. M. A. Rab Convener of All-Party Islami Sangram Parishad and Mr. Md. Habibullah Chowdhury Chairman of Islamic Republican Party. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Apr 84 pp 1, 12]

WORLD BANK LOAN--International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's affiliate for concessional lending, will provide Bangladesh an assistance of SDR 23.4 million (US dollar) for expansion of agricultural research in the country. A World Bank Press release issued in Dhaka on Sunday said that the new concessional credit line would be utilised for improvement of coordination, planning and monitoring for Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and also for the establishment of livestock and fisheries research institutes. The IDA will be one of the co-sponsors for the US dollar 32.2 million project for improvement of BARC's facilities in capital city in Dhaka and also for continued assistance to national agricultural research through an expanded contract research scheme, set up under a previous IDA--funded project. The scheme will provide credit for individual research projects proposed by local scientists. The new institutes for fisheries and livestock research under the project will encourage studies relevant to local conditions. The Press release says that the project will strengthen the Bangladesh Forestry Research Institute at Chittagong by rehabilitating existing facilities, providing biostatistics unit and establishing a seed centre. Research into selection of fast-growing tree species and tree-breeding will also be undertaken. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Apr 84 p 1]

MUSLIM LEADER DIES--Hazrat Maulana Shah Sufi Syed Abul Fazal Sultan Ahmed, Pir Saheb of Chandrapara, Faridpur died on Wednesday at 3 p. m. at the Darbar Sharif. He was 75. He was famous as Mujaddid of the subcontinent over the last one decade. He introduced a number of steps aimed at reforming the society in the light of Islamic Principles. He wrote a number of books. His Namaz-e-Janaza will be held today (Thursday). [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 29 Mar 84 p 12]

PRISONERS FREED--The Government has released 439 prisoners including eight former ministers, since February 1 to create a congenial atmosphere for the proposed dialogue with the political paris, according to an official source in Dhaka on Thursday reports BSS. The list of the released persons include the names of 187 convicted persons, six of them former ministers, 126 trial prisoners and 126 detainees including two former ministers. The Vice-President of Rajshahi University Central Students Union Mr Fazle Hussain Badsha was released Thursday. The source said that in addition, a large number of prisoners have also been released by the district authorities in pursuance of the Government directive to release persons arrested or detained in connection with upazila elections and the incidents of March 1, 1984. The source further said that the Government was carefully examining and reviewing the lists of prisoners submitted by some political parties which include the names of a number of persons who have either been convicted or accused of criminal offences of grave and heinous nature. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 6 Apr 84 p 1]

OIL FROM PRC--Bangladesh will import 40,000 tons of high speed diesel and 10,000 tons of lubricating base oil from China at an estimated cost of 14 million U.S. dollars (about Taka 36 crore) under an agreement signed in Dhaka on Friday, reports BSS. The procurement of the petroleum products from China for the first time since independence will be made available under barter. The cost for the diesel will be 10 million dollars and the rest for the base oil. Both the products will reach the country between May and September of the current year. Dr. Md. Waliuzzaman, Director (Operation), BPC and Mr. Yuezze-Min of CNCIEC signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 3 Apr 84 p 1]

NEW POLITICAL PARTY--Yet another political party named Bangladesh Jatiya Janashakti (BJJS) came into being on Sunday with a pledge to uphold Bangladesh nationalism, and reflect the teachings of the Holy Quran and Sunnah at national level. Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club on Sunday, the party President, Major (Rtd) Abdur Rashid criticised both the Government and the opposition parties alike for not pursuing pragmatic policies. In reply to another question Mr. Rashid said that he favoured US-type presidential form of government. He also favoured parliamentary polls preceding presidential one. Mr. Rashid said that he was released from the army in 1976 for his alleged involvement in 1975 coup and added, I was not involved in the coup." [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 28 Mar 84 p 3]

CSO: 4600/1740

IRAN

CORRESPONDENT VISITS ON 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 24, 27, 28, 29 Feb 84

[Article by Suwat Chamchuri: "Tehran Today, the Smell of Revolution Is Still Strong"]

[24 Feb 84, p 10]

[Text] On the evening of 31 January, the Karachi airport was crowded with foreigners and Pakistanis who wanted to travel abroad in order to "dig for gold" in Saudi Arabia. There were four long lines of people who were trying to move forward as fast as they could. The sounds of the crowd mixed with the periodic airport announcements.

The Islamic Republic of Iran airlines Boeing 747 was parked quietly in another corner of the Karachi airport waiting to take on government-invited guests from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines and other passengers from Pakistan, Japan, Sri Lanka, India and other countries who were changing airplanes here for the flight to Tehran, the land of the Islamic revolution, which was only several hours away.

The guests of the Iranian government were assembled in one line before being called for a quick check of our tickets. We then boarded a vehicle which took us to the airplane. While sitting in this vehicle, I met an Iranian couple who were on their way back to Iran. And so before reaching the aircraft, I started up a conversation in order to learn something about Iran. The husband told us to take along heavy clothing since the weather in Iran at this time of the year is very cold. The wife just sat quietly smiling at us but not saying anything. I wanted to ask more questions but didn't have a chance to do so before the vehicle arrived at the airplane.

Boarding the airplane, we were all busy looking for our seats. We didn't have to worry about our tickets. Luckily, I got a seat toward the front. Most of the passengers were invited guests and Iranians. Before the airplane took off, some gave praise to Mohammed in Arabic.

A moment later, an Iranian air hostess wearing a black chador, which completely covered her body except for her face and hands, passed out toffee candy to the passengers. The uniforms worn by air hostesses were changed after the Islamic state revolution of Ayatollah Khomeyni so that they would be in accord with Islamic principles, which require women to cover their bodies completely.

As I was looking around at the other passengers near me, a small Iranian boy who was sitting in the seat in front of me stuck his head up and played hide and seek with me. I put out my hand for him to grab. He was very cute, sticking out his hand for me to grab. Thus, even before arriving in Iran, a friendship had begun to form.

At 2245 hours on 31 January 1984, the airline of the Islamic Republic of Iran brought about 400 invited guests and reporters from various countries to the land of the Islamic revolution in order to participate in celebrating the fifth anniversary of the victory of Iran's Islamic revolution.

The weather in Tehran was very cold--only 6 degrees centegrade--and so everyone hurried to board the buses provided to take us to the hotel. Whenever someone said something, a white vapor could be seen coming from their mouths. Many people kept their hands in their pockets and shivered as if trying to get the coldness out of their bodies. Snow fell on the road. The roofs of the houses and buildings were all white with snow. This was a strange sight to someone who had never seen this before.

When our party neared the airport terminal, we saw security officials standing around on guard. Some had radios, and some carried guns.

"Asla Mualaikum," said members of the security guard, or Revolutionary Guards as they are called, to us in greeting shaking our hands. But when some people tried to take pictures, the officials forbid them from doing so. We had to talk with them quite a while before they finally allowed us to take some pictures. We were allowed to photograph only the buildings; we were forbidden from taking pictures of people.

The Iranians had made full preparations to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution. In particular, in the airport passenger terminal, pictures of Iran's leaders were on display and there were sayings written on a long white cloth banner.

"There is no East or West. There is only Islam."

This saying caught the attention of the visitors to Iran before they came in contact with the atmosphere in Tehran.

After the initial passport check, all visitors were asked to go to the exhibition hall. High-ranking administrators, such as the vice president of parliament, came and welcomed us warmly. Some people embraced each other and asked where the other had come from. This was our first chance to get to know each other. The welcoming officials provided soft drinks and boiled bananas. They distributed airport entry forms for everyone to fill out. The person had to fill in his name, which country he was from, how much money he was bringing into the country and other such information.

The female visitors were assembled in a separate group. Female officials wearing black chadors were present to help them.

After everyone had had a chance to get to know each other, the welcoming officials took us to inspect our luggage. The very careful inspection took almost 2 hours since there were almost 400 visitors.

After the luggage inspection was completed, our group was put on buses that took us to our hotel. To transport us from the airport to our hotel, about 13 large buses had to be used.

The Iranian officials looked after us very well. During the bus ride to the hotel, official vehicles, with their red lights flashing, drove in front and back of us and on both sides. Besides this, at intersections and along the way, other official vehicles waited to take over and ensure our safety until we reached the hotel.

It was almost 0100 hours before we reached the hotel. At the hotel, Revolutionary Guards were there to welcome us with a smile. Some of them sang songs and clapped their hands while we filed into the hotel.

We stayed at the Esteghlal Hotel, which was formerly called the Royal Grand Hilton. The name was changed after the Islamic revolution.

Inside the hotel, we just wandered about the room for quite a long time since we didn't know what to do. People sat in chairs and rested. The inside of this hotel was very grand. It is one of the largest hotels in Tehran. On the walls, there were long banners greeting those who had come to participate in the activities celebrating the [Islamic] revolution.

After waiting for awhile, a Revolutionary Guard came and greeted us and asked us where we had come from. We said that we were from Thailand. A moment later, he was joined by a friend, whom he introduced to us as Hussein. He said that this man would be responsible for looking after the 11 Thais who had come to visit Iran.

We had first seen Hussein at the airport. He had helped us carry our luggage and checked people's names. But at that time, we had not yet been formally introduced.

Hussein took me to room 613. A Thai friend jokingly told me to be careful on this trip to Iran since I was assigned a room with the number "13" in it. Everyone laughed.

To get to our rooms, we had to squeeze into an elevator. Thais are slight of build and we were pressed tightly against bigger people from other countries. This was tiring. There were three of us in one room, but there was only one double bed. But since we were exhausted and it was already 0200 hours, we all squeezed together and slept on that narrow bed, thinking that we would solve the problem the next day.

[27 Feb 84, p 10]

[Text] "This morning we are going to parliament so don't forget your visitor's card." A friend sharing the room with me told me to take along the card that officials had given us the previous evening. This card is a card given to visitors. On the card is listed the person's name and the country from which he comes. We felt much better after getting this card since it made it much easier to contact officials and other people. We were no longer illegals.

These cards were prepared very quickly. We just gave the officials our room number and name. The Iranian officials called us to a special room to take our pictures and make the card. But because things were done very quickly, some of the pictures were not very good.

"The picture of Achan Withaya looked so funny. He looked like a samurai with his hair sticking up," said Achan Phaibun about a Thai in the next room whose identity card had been made the previous evening. We couldn't help laughing since it was true.

There were 11 Thais who went on this trip. The group, composed of specialists and Imams from the central and southern regions [of Thailand], stayed in three separate rooms. On some nights, when the person with the key did not return, those who returned first went and chatted with those in the other rooms and exchanged ideas. Some people who had had very strange experiences related these experiences to the others and so things became very boisterous. The noise coming from the rooms of the Thais was much louder than that coming from any of the other rooms. And I think that the Thais went to bed later than those in the other rooms.

We hurried down from the sixth floor since it was about time for the bus to leave the hotel. Hussein had said to meet him at 0900 hours.

Before any of the buses could leave the hotel, all the buses had to be ready. Even if a bus was already full, if another was not full, it had to wait until all were full before leaving. Each bus had a sign stating what languages were used on the bus.

On the way, the bus passed the Soviet embassy. The Iranian buses were crowded just like those in Bangkok, but they did not lose much time [in traffic].

I began to remember the routes from the hotel to various places. High buildings have recently been built in the city for the people to rent or buy. These were built by the government. There were not too many people up and about early in the morning. People in Iran go out in the afternoon.

At 1010 hours, our bus arrived at the parliament building. The weather was still quite cold, and snow was still falling.

Before entering the parliament building, we were searched in accord with regulations. That day, no one took along a camera since we had learned our lesson the day the conference was opened at the hotel.

Concerning the security system at the parliament building, people are checked very thoroughly. Even fellow members of the Revolutionary Guard are checked carefully. But they check you with a smile.

Today, two Thai students from Qom came to help the Thai visitors. The result was that the Thais, who were not very quiet to begin with became ever more boisterous.

The Iranian parliament is composed of two buildings. And there is another building that is connected to the others by a sidewalk.

Before entering the parliament hall, people are checked once again, particularly those who have asked permission to bring in a camera.

When we arrived there, the government was holding a meeting on the coming election of MPs. The president of parliament is Rafsanjani.

Sessions of the Iranian parliament do not adhere to fixed time schedules. The times depend mainly on the situation. MPs are elected by the people in various localities. Most are people with religious knowledge. They are elected for a 4-year term. Each session of parliament is broadcast over the radio so that the people will know what their representatives say in parliament.

At the door into the conference hall of the MPs, there is an electric sign telling how many MPs are attending the meeting. That day, there were 250 MPs in attendance.

The atmosphere at the meeting was similar to that in our parliament. People talked and responded to what others had said. Some did so calmly while others were quite vociferous. Those with questions would get up and speak in front of the room. If a debate went on too long, an official

would summarize things for the members. Those participating in the debate rose and spoke from in front of their seats.

On the bench with the president of parliament sat four to five people who were experts in specific fields such as religion or law. They were there to provide advice whenever a problem arose.

MP meetings in the Iranian parliament are different from those in our parliament, that is, they are different from MP meetings held in accord with a democratic system. The Iranian MPs are not divided into opposition parties and government parties. The meetings take the form of a discussion, and resolutions are passed. Those in favor of a motion stand up to be counted. The side with the most votes wins. Thus, on one issue, a particular MP may agree with the motion. But concerning another motion, the same MP may oppose, or agree with, that motion depending on the views of that MP. Thus, the views of an MP on a particular motion before parliament do not depend on the resolution of the party but rather on the decision made by that particular MP.

At this session of parliament, people were mobilized as usual. A Pakistani poet was invited to say a few words, and women castigated the enemies of Islam.

Mobilization is carried on everywhere in Iran in order to keep the people conscious of the revolution.

After the meeting of parliament ended, we and the other guests participated in a prayer session and then went to eat on a lower floor of the parliament building.

The president of parliament and other high-ranking people honored us by talking and eating with the visitors.

While waiting in the bus to go back [to the hotel] and while the bus was leaving the parliament building, we took the opportunity to take a few pictures. But if the pictures are not too clear or their quality is not good, don't get angry. Just take a look at them. Taking pictures was not as easy as you might think.

[28 Feb 84, p 10]

[Text] After returning from parliament, "Adam," a Thai student from Qom, came and spent the night in our hotel room.

"This bed has two mattresses. Let's take the top one off and everyone will have a bed to sleep on."

This was Adam's solution to the problem of there not being enough beds for everyone. We thought this was a good idea since we had taken turns sleeping on the bed and floor for several nights. Thus, Adam's coming

to see us solved this problem for us. And the maid was probably glad not to have to sweep the floor.

It was almost 0200 hours before we went to bed. Coming out of the bathroom and seeing Adam sleeping on the floor, [I] was amused since it was Adam who had thought of a way for everyone to have a mattress to sleep on. But he was sleeping on the floor.

When we learned that Qom was a source of books and religious schools and that it was the city where the revolutionary tide first began, we became impatient to go visit this city, especially those of us who were bookworms.

On the way from the hotel to Qom, we saw that the countryside outside Tehran is similar to the rural countryside in Thailand. However, the soil is sandy. In some places, there are furrows where crops had been grown, particularly millet. Iran still has much land that can be developed.

Houses in the rural areas are frequently built close to each other in the middle of a field. Most of the walls are made of earth or bricks. Some houses have smoke vents. The bus passed beautiful snow-capped mountains. During the long trip, sweets and milk were given to the passengers. That day, we had to leave the hotel early in the morning.

It took us almost 3 hours to reach Qom. We saw the mosques in the distance and saw groups of children playing soccer.

In Qom, there are many foreign students, including Thais, who have come here to study Islam. The Iranian government pays all their expenses.

Before allowing us to enter Qom, the officials checked our bags and cameras. We asked the Thai student to speak to them and make them understand that we were reporters who had been invited to come here. And so we were allowed to take our cameras along. Before entering the city, the officials issued us permits to go and visit Ayatollah Montazeri.

At the home of Ayatollah Montazeri, another thorough inspection was made. In particular, we had to let the officials check our cameras and flash attachments, and they returned them later.

The Ayatollah Montazeri is one of the top leaders in Iran, second only to Khomeyni. Thus, it came as no surprise that the Revolutionary Guard unit took special precautions to ensure the safety of this high-ranking person.

We went in and sat together with people from other countries in a rather large room. A few minutes later, Ayatollah Montazeri appeared behind a window. Photographers of the Iranian government and various newspapers took many pictures.

Ayatollah Montazeri welcomed his guests. He called on Muslims to join together in the struggle against the great powers, such as the United States and the Soviet Union. He was a skilled speaker. At certain points, he made his listeners laugh. This religious leader spoke about both secular and religious matters.

"Ayatollah" is the highest title given those who have religious knowledge. They have the authority to make decisions on religious matters. To become an ayatollah, a person must have had much training, and this takes a long time. Thus, those who are ayatollahs are greatly respected by the people.

The ayatollah spoke for about 90 minutes. After that, Iranian officials talked about the city of Qom, speaking in both Arabic and English. They said that this was an important religious studies center for the people. There is a large collection of both domestic and foreign texts on Islam. Historically, the city is important as the birthplace of the Islamic revolution. It is considered to be a holy city. The daughter of one of the top 12 ayatollahs is buried here.

After leaving the house of the Ayatollah Montazeri, officials took us to the main mosque in Qom. Near this mosque is an important religious school named Madrasa Feseyah. Khomeyni once attended this school. Besides him, there are other important people, such as Behesti Bahonar, who have studied here. Four years before the revolution, the Shah's soldiers seized students at this school and threw them off the second floor. Many were killed. Students here were among the first to rise up and participate in the revolution to overthrow the Shah.

Besides the Feseyah school, nearby is another old school that played a part in building revolutionary forces. This is the Darol-Safa school. It is now being restored.

In the afternoon, we and the other foreign guests went to pray at a mosque. There were about 20,000 people there. Before the prayers began, Ayatollah Jannati spoke in order to provide religious and social instruction.

Ayatollah Jannati is another important person who is very knowledgeable and who is a very skilled speaker. He is one of the six ayatollahs who is expected to continue the revolution after Khomeyni.

After our prayers, we had lunch together at a hotel. On the way to the hotel, we encountered a female beggar. The Thai student said that there are beggars in Iran but not too many. The beggars are people who fled from other places such as Iraq and who cannot return to their countries.

After eating, we went to see another mosque. We saw a mosque security force. Most of the members of this force were young people below the age of 25. They were being trained to protect religious centers during times of war.

We and the other guests were then taken to meet Ayatollah Baignai and Ayatollah Miskep, who are very good speakers. They captivated the audience and had us laughing. These ayatollahs are two of the six who are expected to continue the revolution after Khomeyni.

The return trip to Tehran took an extra 30 minutes since visitors from one African country apparently thought it would be fun to get on a different bus from the one they had rode here in. This caused much confusion for the guides and so it took awhile for them to check everyone and straighten out things.

[29 Feb 84, p 10]

[Text] I was chatting with my roommates when the telephone rang.

"This morning, if you don't have a meeting in the conference hall, we would like to take you to visit a news agency or to see another mosque. You can decide what you want to do."

We discussed where we should go. Most wanted to go to the mosque. But Phaibun, the young teacher, suggested that we go to the news agency instead, which was what I wanted to do.

It did not take us very long to reach the Republic News Agency of Iran. This news agency occupies a five-story building located along the road. Different sections work on the various floors. For example, there is a typing and computer room, a photograph room and a radio room. The top floor is reserved for the editor.

The Republic News Agency of Iran produces all the printed materials in the country, including the newspapers and journals. Besides this, it has 21 branches and covers 200 countries. Most of the articles that are published concern the Middle East and other Muslim countries for a total of approximately 60 countries.

Newspapers in Iran are printed in Arabic, Persian and English. The largest Newspaper is KEYHAN, which has a daily circulation of approximately 250,000.

The work atmosphere at the news agency was similar to that in our country. Women and men were able to work together. For the most part, news stories were received and sent by telephone. Foreign news stories were received from foreign news agencies such as A.F.P. and Reuters. Or stories were received on the radio receiver 24 hours a day and taped.

Something that was interesting was that in presenting the news, emphasis is given to news concerning the activities of the Islamic Activities Group both in the country and abroad. Reports are received from volunteer reporters in various countries who are prepared to send in reports.

We stayed at the news agency for only 2 hours. Then, after eating lunch, we went to visit the training center for Monafeqins.

"Monafeqin" is the word that the Iranians use to refer to those who oppose the Islamic revolution. Iranian officials told us that at present, there are still monafeqins. Some have had to flee abroad. They take every opportunity they can to stir up trouble in the city. They were particularly active just after the revolution. At present, if they have a chance, they try to cause trouble.

We reached the Martyr Mohammad Kachu'i (Evin Prison) training center for monafeqins about 1900 hours. To get to the center, you have to go into the mountains. The path was very slippery because of the snow on the ground. We had to hold on to others to keep from falling. By the time we reached the prison, we were all tired.

The prison, or Monafeqin Training Center, is a large building. It resembles a gym for athletes. From one side of the large hall, there is a second-floor terrace.

When we arrived, some male monafeqins were sewing clothes. Each person was wearing a brown shirt and a brown pair of pants, with an insignia on the shirt. Most of these men were between 15 and 20 years old.

In welcoming the guests, people shouted criticisms against the enemies of Islam as usual. Some of the visitors went and talked with the monafeqins. A moment later, there was an announcement calling on everyone to go to the large conference hall in another part of the building for prayers.

After the prayers, the program on the stage began. People were asked to read from the Koran. After that, a group of monafeqins sang some songs. The songs concerned encouraging people to struggle against the enemy. In between songs, representatives from the various countries made speeches, and the warden welcomed the visitors. This was interspersed with curses on the revolution's enemies, which were shouted out by the male and female monafeqins, who were sitting in separate groups. When the men finished uttering their curses, the women would shout their curses. This went on all during the meeting, which lasted a rather long time.

During the meeting, the officials allowed the monafeqins to talk with the visitors, with men talking with men and women talking with women. Everyone talked about the things that interested them.

From talking with the monafeqins, it was learned that at present, there are about 2,000 monafeqins here. About 15 percent are women. Each one has been given a different sentence depending on his or her crime. If a person behaves well, he will be released sooner. During the time that they are incarcerated here, their relatives can visit them. The Iranian

officials gave the visitors a chance to talk with the monafeqins by allowing the monafeqins to mingle freely with the visitors after the program.

A little while later, the monafeqins told us that they had prepared a meal for us. They asked us to sit down.

"If you want to interview the women, I will take you to them now," said a Revolutionary Guard to us.

"That would be nice. Thank you," said one of our group as he got out a pen and some paper.

"Chuku," an 18-year-old female monafeqin, told us that in the past, she had not known who "Khomeyni" was. She had been a member of a monafeqin propaganda group. She was arrested at her house along with other monafeqins. She said that she had attended high school in Tehran. She had not been interested in and had not understood Islam. But when she was sent here, she gained a better understanding of Islam.

We asked one boy why he had been arrested. He said that during the revolution, he had opposed Khomeyni. He had joined a group that opposed those who supported the revolution. Later on, he and his friends were arrested. When asked how he felt about being referred to as a monafeqin, he said that he felt sorry about this. He is an Iranian and a Muslim. But only now has he begun to understand Islam. And he now goes to daily prayers with the others.

"I am married. I am 21 years old and have two children. I was arrested because my boss was a naval officer and a member of the "Thudet" party. I and eight others were arrested," said another monafeqin while we were eating dinner. He helped us by going and getting some fruit juice for us to drink before the food was served.

After eating, we had a chance to talk to the warden here. We asked him how the monafeqins are guarded.

We also asked how he could be sure that the monafeqins would have a change of heart and support the Islamic revolution in the future.

"We treat them like a father treats a child."

When he finished speaking, the monafeqins present got up and gave him a kiss on the cheek.

11943

CSO: 4207/114

BANI-SADR, RAJAVI SPLIT OVER 'CORDIAL MISUNDERSTANDING'

Paris LE MONDE in French 5 Apr 84 p 4

[Article by J.G.]

[Text] "We have reached the point where it is preferable for each of us to follow his own path from now on and enjoy complete freedom of action." It was with this cryptic remark that the former Iranian president, Mr Bani-Sadr, explained to us his break with Mas'ud Rajavi, president of the National Resistance Council (CNR), one of the groups opposing the Tehran regime, and head of the Mojahedin Khalq.

The break was made public last Saturday in an equally short communique from the CNR which, while praising the "2 years and 8 months of cooperation between the two Iranian leaders," felt that "under the present circumstances, cooperation between Bani-Sadr and the CNR seems practically impossible, and it has been decided to end their political coalition under its present form."

Receiving us in his modest quarters in Cachan, where he has been living for 2 weeks since having left Auvers-sur-Oise--where he shared Mas'ud Rajavi's summer house--Bani-Sadr refused to say any more. "Certainly," he admitted, "there are differences between us, but we have agreed not to speak about them publicly, in order to preserve our chances for the future. Our goals, in any case, remain the same: we want Iran to return to independence and democracy."

In fact, the reasons for the "cordial misunderstanding" between Mas'ud Rajavi, who is the moving spirit of the CNR, and Bani-Sadr, who was its standard-bearer, are essentially linked to the delicate problems of the Council's relations with the Iraqi regime. Rajavi had met in January, 1983, with Tareq Aziz, deputy prime minister of Iraq, when the latter was passing through Paris. Aziz stated on that occasion that he would be happy to see his "dear friend," Mas'ud Rajavi, "be the next prime minister or president of Iran."

These remarks, which were inopportune, to say the least, had profoundly shocked Bani-Sadr, who has always maintained a reserved attitude with respect to a nation at war with his own country and has not forgotten

that he, as chief of the Iranian army, directed that war for 2 years. The statements by Tareq Aziz were also interpreted at the time as a disavowal of Bani-Sadr, who must in principle, according to the terms of the CNR charter, assume the provisional presidency of the republic which would eventually be established in Tehran after the fall of Imam Khomeyni's regime.

This difference in evaluation of the opportunity for cooperation with Baghdad seems since to have weighed heavily on relations between the two Iranian leaders. The matter of chemical weapons apparently being used by Iraq also has contributed to emphasizing the differences. The CNR, in effect, has contented itself with issuing a vague communique denouncing the "use of chemical weapons by the parties to the conflict," without specifically naming Iraq.

On the other hand, for Bani-Sadr, who on Friday sent a letter to the secretary general of the UN, there is no doubt: Baghdad has certainly used chemical weapons against Iranian soldiers. "I believe," he told us in this regard, "that the evidence is overwhelming. While Iraqi military leaders speak of exterminating "noxious insects," they are betraying, without realizing it, the fact that they have already had recourse to chemical weapons. In addition, Baghdad has always claimed to have a redoubtable secret weapon. We know now what it is. This is very serious, because it creates a dangerous precedent, of which the mullahs, who are more cruel than Saddam Hussein, might take advantage, to use this dangerous weapon themselves."

However that may be, the friendly departure of Mr Bani-Sadr will contribute to further radicalizing the CNR. Certain opposition groups, such as the minority fedayin, the Maoists, the Komuleh (a Marxist-Leninist-inspired Kurdish organization), had long since been invited to join the Council. They had refused, invoking primarily the presence of Bani-Sadr, whom they consider a moderate who has collaborated with the Tehran regime over a long period. The departure of the former president of the Islamic republic seems now to open the door to the CNR for these groups.

8735

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IRAN

IRP ORGAN: IRAQ'S CHEMICAL WARFARE 'NOT A CLOSED CASE'

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Apr 84 pp 1,12

[Text] In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. You know that these people who have come to inspect Saddam's great crime, which threatens humanity, have made their report, but those who ought to condemn Saddam have not done so.

Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, yesterday discussed the United Nations delegation of prominent international experts, with reference to the Baghdad regime's latest war crimes and the Ba'thist army's use of chemical and biological bombs. He said: "Since they just shrugged it off before the world, it would have been better if they had not sent them." It is true that the United Nations was at a crossroads when it sent this delegation, but once again it took the path of deathly silence, and made no appreciable reaction aimed at condemning war crimes.

The United Nations Security Council also adopted a similar course, and, by maintaining silence, tried to relegate the Baghdad regime's use of chemical bombs and biological weapons to forgetfulness. It did not turn out that way, however, and a day does not pass when the cry condemning the Baghdad regime and its allies is not echoed even in the Western press. The Security Council and the United Nations thought that by keeping silence on this great crime, they would find an opportunity to diminish the magnitude and importance of the case, converting it to an unimportant issue not worthy of discussion or position-taking.

The Secretary General of the United Nations, in a fruitless effort, maintained that he could only express regret. In so saying, he wished to announce that the case is closed on the newest war crimes by the Baghdad regime and its allies. The Secretary General did not know, however, that not only will this case not be closed easily, but the case concerning the

participation of the permanent members of the Security Council in this terrible crime against humanity will also be opened before the eyes of the world in a parallel study.

On 23 Esfand 1362 [14 Mar 1984] the inspection team came to Tehran to study the extent of the use of chemical and biological weapons by the Ba'thist army of Iraq. It stayed in Iran 6 days, traveling to the fronts of the imposed war twice and visiting those injured by the chemical and biological bombardments in the course of its investigation of this war crime. On the 6th of this month of Farvardin [26 March], the delegation of high-ranking international experts submitted its report, in which it emphatically affirmed the use of chemical weapons, to the Secretary General of the United Nations. Although the name Iraq was deliberately omitted from the published report on this inhumane crime, the text of the report sufficiently stipulates that the use of chemical weapons against Iranian combatants is absolutely clear.

The inspection team's report shows that the team's samples from the remnants of chemical bombs, which were sent to European laboratories, leave no doubt as to the use of chemical bombs.

The views expressed by the inspection team's experts are so clear that even efforts by the Secretary General and the Security Council's deathly silence could not diminish its importance and impact. The wave of international revulsion and condemnation of the Baghdad regime for using biological weapons and chemical bombs reached such a height that even the Western media competed with one another in condemning the Baghdad regime. It is unfortunate, however, that in the midst of all this the non-aligned movement is still hibernating.

Is the non-aligned movement following the lead of the United Nations, in order to acquire a similar fate for itself? Does the non-aligned movement aspire to being without credibility among the nations of the world? Silence is no longer appropriate; if the non-aligned movement does not break its silence, if it does not take a position on war crimes, it will undoubtedly be accused of indifference to the fate of nations and following a policy of submission.

A spokesman for the movement at one point said that officials of the non-alignment movement were awaiting a statement by experts from the delegation, and that any expression of views concerning this would not be possible until that time. Yet, despite the fact that it has been two weeks since the official statement was issued by the United Nations inspection team concerning Iraq's use of chemical weapons, the non-aligned movement has been unable to make its position clear on this issue.

Isn't this lengthy opportunity for the non-aligned movement to express its views sufficient? There is hesitation here, as if India, as the head of the non-aligned movement, does not have the necessary courage to express an opinion on this subject and condemn Iraq as a war criminal. So far, the non-aligned movement has been unable or unwilling to clearly take a position against the aggressor and condemn Iraq for its countless crimes, and also as the initiator of its 43-month war against the Islamic revolution of Iran.

Shouldn't India, as head of the non-aligned movement, take a clear position? Is India waiting for Islamic Iran to take similar countermeasures, so that India can then reprimand both sides to the same extent, and thereby preserve its neutrality? If this is what Indian officials have in mind, they are making a big mistake. The cities and villages of Iran have been being pulverized for more than 40 months under fire from the weapons of the vengeful army of Iraq; the Baghdad regime has vindicated its anger at its continuous military defeats every time with rocket attacks on residential areas. The non-aligned movement has never taken offense at these inhumane crimes. However, the moment Islamic Iran, after 40 months of patience and tolerance, responds in kind, Mrs Gandhi, as head of the non-aligned movement, announces her regret and anxiety that residential areas are being targeted in the war.

In answer to this position taken by the head of the non-aligned movement, President Hojjat ol-Eslam va-al-Moslemin Khameneh'i addressed the following remarks to Mrs Gandhi: Your sensitivity as head of a friendly government and the non-aligned movement concerning this issue is gratifying, but I must amicably express my surprise. Why is this sensitivity just now appearing after three years? Now I would like to solicit your opinion on an important issue, and I hope that with regard to it you will also responsibly display sensitivity, and that is Iraq's use of chemical and biological bombs. I hope that you will fully fulfill your responsibilities as head of the non-aligned movement with regard to this event.

Although Mrs Gandhi later announced her personal aversion to the use of chemical and biological weapons, she deferred any expression of views as chief of the non-aligned movement until after consultation with the other members of the movement, and in answer to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, she announced: "The Foreign Minister of the Indian government has asked this country's permanent representative in the United Nations to ask other members of the movement to enter into immediate talks concerning this." It has now been more than two weeks since this answer was given, and it appears that the non-aligned movement has been unable to achieve a decisive result in its "immediate talks."

Does procrastination on this matter live up to the aspirations of the non-aligned movement? Will it not be the judgement of nations that the non-aligned movement has been irresponsible in this regard? Admittedly, the non-aligned movement is undergoing a severe test at the present time; the courage to make decisions and declare views will be required to pass it.

9310

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IRAN

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY DISCUSSED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Apr 84 p 30

[Text] Dr Mohammad Taqi-Banki, Minister of the Interior and supervisor of the plan and budget organization, gave an exclusive interview to KEYHAN in which he answered our questions concerning planning for agricultural growth and expansion, and establishing basic priorities for the 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] budget in order to lay the foundations for self-sufficiency in the agricultural sector.

The first question was: In view of the fact that the year 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] has been designated as a year for stepped-up activity and self-sufficiency in the area of agriculture, is the plan and budget organization preparing a new plan with regard to agricultural policy or not? He answered: With regard to stepped-up activity and self-sufficiency in the area of agricultural production, the principal plans and policies of the plan and budget organization are as follows:

The first step towards establishing the desired coordination and balance between the plans and the organizations responsible for carrying out agricultural expansion plans is under the supervision of the supreme agricultural council, since this council works to implement and complete expansion plans. The new classifications for fundamental agricultural operations, and divisions of responsibility for responsible organizations, particularly between the ministries of agriculture and power with regard to water and soil expansion operations, are under the supervision of the agriculture and water coordination commission; putting these into operation in the budget for 1363 [21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985] is another of this organization's plans. With regard to this, it must be added that many similar plans which were being carried out by various organizations have been combined on the basis of the substance of their operations.

In the same regard, he added: Existing plans include defining responsibilities and forming regional management groups to remove obstacles and difficulties to the implementation, coordination,

and combining of plans to expand water and soil resources, from the water procurement stage to its consumption at the level of cultivation.

Concerning the policies under consideration for completing the Islamic Republic of Iran's first plan for agricultural growth and expansion, Dr Banki said: Among the policies which are being carried out to complete the first plan is the establishment of the necessary connections and logical relations between the country's two main economic sectors, agriculture and industry. The establishment of this relationship will be done by procuring as much industrial raw material as possible from the agricultural sector, from industrial fibres to food products and the products of rural industry; needed agricultural materials, from ploughs to combines, pumps, chemical fertilizer, and pesticides, will be procured from the industrial sector.

He added: The special priority which is given to the creation and implementation of plans to lay the groundwork for and expand on agricultural water and soil resources, like every other building project, rests on its foundation, which is agriculture. In other words, strengthening it depends on basic planning in the agricultural sector. Matters related to building the foundations of Iran's agriculture, as one of the main factors in increasing production, despite the fact that they were very important, were more neglected than any other factor. Now, however, when self-sufficiency in food production is being discussed, plans to expand the foundations of agriculture are the most essential items on the work agenda, and they must be given serious and immediate attention.

Concerning the formulation of executive policy for advancing the goals of expanding agriculture, Dr Banki added: Formulating these policies, organizing the implementation of fundamental agricultural operations, and removing the problem of the shortage of specialist organizations, will be done with emphasis on the necessity for joint water and agricultural programs and plans.

The formulation of comprehensive plans for agricultural expansion is also being done in the plan and budget organization. These plans cover the basic elements of production, and each one is organized according to the country's natural water runoff regions. Another plan being formulated is to stipulate society's basic priorities and needs, the relative benefits of regions, the interests of farmers, and to expedite the formulation of an appropriate pattern of cultivation for each region in the country.

With the regard to the creation of employment in the rural areas, he said: Employment will be created by establishing industry to support agriculture in the rural areas, with the aim of supplementing the income of farmers and preventing rural migration to the cities.

With regard to the formulation of appropriate pricing policy for agricultural products, he added: These policies are being formulated so as to provide farmers with the necessary incentive to produce basic goods, and so that basic goods needed by the country will be produced domestically while the farmer earns money, and with the idea in mind that agricultural activity is economic activity.

Dr Banki was asked: In what direction must the entire economic sector move in order to bring about mechanized and traditional agricultural growth and expansion. He answered: In this regard it must be noted that agricultural growth and expansion is not necessarily mechanized agricultural expansion. With the selection of appropriate agricultural technology, and with a view to its cultural, political, and economic aspects, steps may be taken in this direction. In other words, the selection of appropriate technology in terms of the make-up of the work force and capital must be appropriate for the country's potential and actual resources in terms of the elements of the work and the capital. He added: These matters must be kept in mind for the movement of all the economic sectors in order to bring about agricultural growth and development. The educational sector must take steps to increase the general level of skill of the agricultural work force through technical and professional training. The country's industries and mines sector can also be active in increasing its production of agricultural implements and its consumption of agricultural products, and in the creation of employment. The country's water sector must work to systematize and control water in order to profitably increase water and soil resources and to secure the basic foundations for agricultural expansion. In the banking sector, it is also necessary that the steps which are under consideration be taken in order to establish the needed agricultural credit facilities. The country's commercial sector must take steps to reform trade relations between the agricultural sector and other sectors, to practice correct pricing policies, and eliminate speculators.

In the same connection, he added: The country's transportation and communications sector also has responsibilities in the expansion of agriculture. This sector must take steps to establish transport foundations for agricultural products, and to build roads between the agricultural regions and sectors of the cities. It is also necessary for the country's energy sector to procure fuel and motor power for machines and the implements of agricultural production.

IRAN

BRIEFS

'KHOMEYNI PLOTTING AGAINST KURDS'--Sheykh 'Ezeddin Hoseyni, the religious leader of the Iranian Kurds, exposed the murders of the Islamic Republic regime. The representative of Sheykh 'Ezeddin Hoseyni, who has come to Europe to inform the people of the world about the continuous massacres of the people of Kordestan by the armed religious men, pointed out that Khomeyni is planning a new plot for killing the Kurds. [Text] [GF090651 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1830 GMT 8 Apr 84]

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